WASHTENAW

JEWISH NEWS

November 2008 Cheshvan/Kislev 5769 Volume XXXIII: Number 3 FREE

Author Ilana Blumberg to open the 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival

Tina Gargotta, special to the WJN

Ilana Blumberg, author of *Houses of Study: A Jewish Woman Among Books*, will open the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival on Wednesday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. A dessert reception for audience members will take place that evening at 7 p.m.. The event is sponsored by the University of Michigan Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and Simply Scrumptious catering.

Winner of the 2008 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and runner up for the 2007 National Jewish Book Award in Women's Studies, Blumberg's book explores what happens when the traditional Jewish ideal of learning asserts itself in a woman, directed by that same tradition toward a life of modesty, early marriage, and motherhood.

To learn was to live, and to learn well was to live well. This was the lesson of both the Modern Orthodox Jewish world in which Ilana Blumberg was educated, with its commitment to traditional Jewish practice and ideas, and the modern secular world in which she lives. But when the paths of Jewish tradition and secular wisdom inevitably diverge, applying this lesson can become extraordinarily tricky, especially for a woman. Blumberg's memoir of negotiating these two worlds is the story of how a Jewish woman's life was shaped by a passion for learning; it is also a rare look into the life of Modern Orthodoxy, the twentieth-century movement of Judaism that tries to reconcile modernity with tradition.

Set in "houses of study," from a Jewish grammar school and high school to a Jerusalem yeshiva for women to a secular American university, Blumberg traces her own path

Ilana Blumberg

from a childhood immersed in Hebrew and classical Judaic texts, as well as American novels and biographies, to a womanhood where the two literatures suddenly represent mutually exclusive possibilities for life.

Ilana M. Blumberg is an assistant professor of humanities, culture, and writing at James Madison College, Michigan State University. She is married to Ori Weisberg, a Ph.D. candidate in English Literature at the University of Michigan. Their two children, Priya and Shai, attend the Early Childhood Center at the JCC. ■

The Jewish Book Festival runs from November 5–17. To become a Book Festival Sponsor, or for more information, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

More Book Festival coverage begins on page 18

Federation's 2008 Main Event features NPR'S Mara Liasson

Where we go from here: the changing face of American politics

Jeffrey Lazor, special to the WJN

On November 4 a new president of the United States will be elected. American Politics will change. What does this mean for the country? For the economy? For the Jewish community? For Israel?

These questions and more will be answered as the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor welcomes National Public Radio political correspondent Mara Liasson to speak at the Ypsilanti Marriott Eagle Crest Resort on December 11.

The 2008 Main Event is chaired by Brad and Robin Axelrod and Jerry and Judie Lax. This year's Main Event bears incredible significance as the political and economic climate shifts in the wake of the presidential election. "We are very happy to be involved with this event, which gives the entire Jewish community an opportunity to meet and to celebrate the Federation's Annual Campaign, which contributes significantly to meeting important local and international needs. We also look forward to the insights of Mara Liasson concerning the election and its likely impact on issues of vital importance to all of us," remarked Jerry and Judie Lax.

Mara Liasson

Mara Liasson is the national political correspondent for NPR, and a regular panelist on *Special Report with Brit Hume* and *Fox News Sunday* on the Fox News Channel. Her reports can be heard regularly on NPR's award-winning news magazines *All Things Considered* and *Morning Edition*. Liasson provides extensive coverage of politics and policy from Washington, DC—focusing on the White House and Congress—and also reports on political trends beyond the Beltway.

Each election year, Liasson provides key coverage of the candidates and issues in both presidential and congressional races. During her tenure she has covered three presidential elections, in 1992, 1996, and 2000. Prior to her current assignment, Liasson was NPR's White House correspondent for all eight years of the Clinton administration. She won the White House Correspondents Association's Merriman Smith Award for daily news coverage in 1994, 1995, and again in 1997.

The Jewish Federation Main Event once again has the generous support of the Ford Motor Company. Michigan Public Radio is the Media Partner for the event.

"We are thrilled to be co-chairing the Main Event!" said Brad and Robin Axelrod. "As a Jewish community we all have the exciting opportunity to join together, regardless of political opinions, religious observance, or level of involvement. Please share a wonderful evening with us by coming to what we expect will be a fascinating conversation with Mara Liasson." ■

To RSVP for the Main Event, visit http://www.jewishannarbor.org/mainevent. Tickets for the event are $36 for adults and $18 for high school or college students. For more information, contact Jeff Lazor at jefflazor@jewishannarbor.org or 677.0100.

Community invited to TBE Kristallnacht commemoration

Marianne Aaron, special to the WJN

On the night of the November 9, and well into November 10, 1938, on the pretence of retaliation for the killing of a German Embassy staff person by a 17 year old Jewish Polish boy living in Paris, the German people were incited to "rise in bloody vengeance against the Jews." While the German police stood by, crowds of storm troopers, SS, and Hitler Youth beat and murdered Jews, broke into and wrecked Jewish homes and businesses, and brutalized women and children. Synagogues were especially targeted for vandalism and systematically burned, while local fire departments stood by or simply prevented the fire from spreading to surrounding buildings. 267 synagogues were burned, with 177 totally destroyed.

In 1938, Marianne Aaron was a young girl living in Mannheim, Germany, where her father was the head cantor at the Hauptsynagogue. She will share her memories of Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, at Temple Beth Emeth's shabbat service on November 7, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Kol Halev, the TBE adult choir, will sing special music for the occasion. The community is invited to attend the service.

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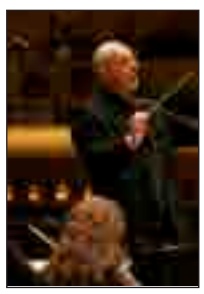

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Letter to the Editor

Desmond Tutu poor choice for Wallenberg honor

This year's recipient of the Wallenberg medal and lectureship, former South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, was an unfortunate choice. While Tutu has been chosen for his courageous opposition to the apartheid regime in his native South Africa and his efforts toward reconciliation after the collapse of apartheid, he is also well-known internationally for his one-sided attacks on Israel. Of course there is nothing wrong with criticism of some Israeli policies or actions. In fact, vigorous criticism comes from Israelis themselves. However, former Archbishop Tutu goes well beyond criticizing specific Israeli actions and policies. By accusing the State of Israel of practicing apartheid in the South African model and advocating divestment from Israeli companies and also from non-Israeli companies engaged in trade with Israel, he has, in fact, joined forces with the Palestinians in their war against Israel.

There could have been a Palestinian state in 1948 if the Palestinians had declared independence at the end of the British mandate, just as the Israelis did. However, neither the Palestinian leadership at the time nor any of the Arab states were interested in a state covering only a part of the British mandate. Their goal was to drive the Jews into the sea. Since the founding of the State of Israel, the area of the West Bank of the Jordan River has become the source of terrorist attacks against Israel, even before 1967, at a time when it was a part of Jordan.

Israel has in the past made serious efforts to come to a compromise solution of the conflict with the Palestinians. Unfortunately, even the latest offer by Israel made at the end of the Clinton administration in December 2000 was rejected outright by the Palestinians, and instead of a counter offer they answered with an all-out war. The South African whites never made any reasonable offer to the blacks until forced to do so by a variety of circumstances, including depressed world commodity prices, wars across the country's borders, the impact of the divestment movement, etc. The anti-terrorist measures taken by Israel are purely for self-defense. There is no basis for the accusation of apartheid.

The Wallenberg medal is being awarded by the University of Michigan, in memory of Raoul Wallenberg for his courageous actions in saving tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II, which tragically cost his life. In view of this legacy of Raoul Wallenberg, the award of the Wallenberg medal to former Archbishop Tutu can only be regarded as regrettable.

Ernest Fontheim

Author Erin Einhorn to speak at Residential College

Henry Greenspan, special to the WJN

Erin Einhorn will talk about her book, *The Pages in Between*, on Monday evening, November 10, 7:30–9, in the University of Michigan Residential College Auditorium (enter on East University, across from the Ross School of Business).

Einhorn is a U-M graduate, class of 1995, and is currently a reporter for the *New York Daily News*. She has written for the *Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Daily News*, and *Fortune*. A contributor to Chicago Public Radio's *This American Life,* Einhorn's book was the basis for one of the show's most popular episodes.

The Pages in Between is a unique, intensely moving memoir, in which Einhorn describes finding the family in Poland who saved her mother from the Holocaust. Instead of a joyful reunion, Erin unearths a dispute that forces her to navigate the increasingly bitter crossroads between memory and truth. Peeling back layer after layer, the memoir links the story of two families with unanswered (perhaps unanswerable) questions about Holocaust memory—for Jews and Poles, and for the author herself.

Ann Kirshner, author of *Sala's Gift*, writes: "Erin Einhorn's detective work brings her back to unlock the secrets of the Polish house where her mother once lived. What a house! Teeming with conflict and history, it allures and frustrates those who try to bring it—and Polish Jewish history—into the 21st century. *The Pages in Between* is the story of Einhorn's quest to discover the past and find peace."

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Publication date: Tuesday, November 25.
Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

U-M symposium to explore Judaism and music

Matt Weingarden, special to the WJN

On Monday, November 17, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, Institute for the Humanities, and the University Musical Society are hosting a special symposium, *Judaism and Music*. Featuring Leon Botstein, president of Bard College; Kay Kaufman Shelemay, of Harvard University; and Michael P. Steinberg, of Brown University, the symposium is an opportunity to illuminate and demonstrate new methods for studying the intersection of Judaism and music.

As music director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Botstein is scheduled to lead the symphony's Sunday, November 16 performance at Hill Auditorium. The symposium extends his visit and creates an academic forum for students, faculty, visiting fellows, and the broader community to explore music within the context of Jewish culture, history, and experience. Deborah Dash Moore and Institute for the Humanities Director Daniel Herwitz view this as a new creative collaboration between the two institutes, following last year's *Looks Given/ Looks Taken* photography exhibit.

In the symposium's opening lecture, Botstein will discuss the oratorios of Mendelssohn and Hiller in the context of the cultural politics of the period, and consider the subsequent reception of their works in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Joining Botstein are Kay Kaufman Shelemay and Michael P. Steinberg. Shelemay is G. Gordon Watts professor of music and professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard. Among her publications are *Let Jasmine Rain Down: Song* and *Remembrance Among Syrian Jews and Soundscapes: Exploring Music in a Changing World*. Steinberg is Barnaby Conrad and Mary Critchfield Keeney professor of history, and professor of music at Brown, where he also directs the Cogut Center for the Humanities. An expert in German-Jewish history and the cultural history of music, Steinberg's most recent book is *Judaism, Musical and Unmusical.*

COURTESY HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Kay Kaufman Shelemay

COURTESY BARD COLLEGE

Leon Botstein

COURTESY BROWN UNIVERSITY

Michael P. Steinberg

All symposium events will take place in Rackham Amphitheatre (915 E. Washington St.). Attendance is free and open to the public. For more information, call 763-9047 or visit http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic.

Schedule of events

9 a.m.: Leon Botstein, "Hiller and Mendelssohn: Judaism, Conversion, and the Fate of the Nineteenth Century Oratorio"

10 a.m.: Kay Kaufman Shelemay, "Exploring Leonard Bernstein's Jewish Boston"

11 a.m.: Michael P. Steinberg,"Music & Melancholia"

noon: Lunch break (meal not provided)

1:30 p.m.: Closing panel featuring all speakers

Federation sponsors Night of Hilarity and Charity

Tina Gargotta, special to the WJN

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Young Adult Division, the Fourth Annual Night of Hilarity and Charity will feature a performance by Cory Kahaney on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m., at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.

The Night of Hilarity and Charity began in 2004 as a "younger, not your grandfather's Federation" way to give back to the Jewish community through the Federation's Annual Campaign. After the success of last year's event, featuring *Last Comic Standing's* Dan Ahdoot, this year's co-chairs Yehuda Bechar, Monica Vaisman, and Claire and Lou Kolman are excited to bring back the popular event.

Like last year's Dan Ahdoot, Cory Kahaney may be best known as a grand finalist on NBC's *Last Comic Standing.* She's had specials on Comedy Central and HBO; other TV credits include the *Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson* (CBS), multiple appearances on *Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn*, Joy's comedy corner on *The View* (ABC), and *Politically Incorrect* (ABC). You can catch Cory as the "comedy coach" on Nick at Nite's *Funniest Mom in America* series starting this April.

Tickets to the Night of Hilarity and Charity are $18 each. Register online at www.jewishannarbor.org. Doors open for kosher *hors d'oeuvres* and drink specials at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact YAD Coordinator Tina Gargotta by email at tina@jewishannarbor.org or call 677-0100. ■

A2 Symphony joined by Gemini for November concert

David Erik Nelson, staff writer

On Sunday, November 9, the Ann Arbor Symphony, under the direction of Maestro Arie Lipsky, will join the nationally renowned music duo Gemini (Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits) to present a concert for children and families. The 4 p.m. performance will be at the Michigan Theater, and will immediately follow the Ann Arbor Symphony's annual "Instrument Petting Zoo," which begins at 3 p.m.

The concert—the brothers' fourth with the symphony—will feature Gemini's familiar award-winning songs, and will also premiere a new work, *Perfect Pitch*, a story-in-song in the spirit of *Peter and the Wolf*, written for orchestra, narrator, and young soloist. The story, and some music, was written by Sandor Slomovits, in cooperation with Emmy award-winning composer Brian Brill, who also arranged the piece for full orchestration. The violin soloist for this concert will be Sandor Slomovits's fourteen-year-old daughter, Emily.

Sandor, Emily and Laszlo Slamovits

Gemini has performed nationally since the 1970s, and their music has received awards from the American Library Association, *Parents' Choice* magazine, *National Parenting Publications*, and *Early Childhood News*, among others.

Also joining Gemini for part of the concert will be members of the Ann Arbor Youth Chorale and young twin singers, Ariel and Zoey Engelbert. ■

For tickets and more information, call 994-4801.

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Piano virtuosos Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman to present evening of piano duos

Jim Leija, special to the WJN

The University Musical Society (UMS) will present pianists Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman on Saturday, November 8, at 8 p.m. in Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium (825 N. University Ave.). Yefim Bronfman is widely regarded as one of the most talented virtuoso pianists performing today. Returning for the first time since his UMS debut in 1994, Bronfman is joined by the great American pianist Emanuel Ax, renowned not only for his poetic temperament and unsurpassed virtuosity, but also for the exceptional breadth of his performing activity. *The Chicago Tribune* called their 2002 CD of Rachmaninoff's rarely recorded piano duos "a marvel of digital dexterity, warmly romantic sentiment, and jaw-dropping bravura." In their UMS performance, they will present a program of piano duos by Brahms, Bolcom, Mozart, and Rachmaninoff.

Born in Lvov, Poland, Emanuel Ax moved to Winnipeg, Canada, with his family when he was a young boy. He went on to study at the Juilliard School, where he won the Young Concert Artists Award. Ax captured public attention in 1974 when, at age 25, he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. Each season thereafter has included appearances with major symphony orchestras worldwide, recitals in the most celebrated concert halls, a variety of chamber music collaborations, the commissioning and performance of new music, and additions to his acclaimed discography. His first album on the Sony Classical label was released in 1983; since then, he has recorded over 50 others. Additionally, Ax contributed to the 2005 International Emmy award-winning BBC documentary commemorating the Holocaust that aired on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In recent years, Ax has turned his attention toward the music of 20th-century composers. He has performed the world premieres of several works, many of which were composed especially for him.

The New York Times called Yefim Bronfman "Certainly one of the greatest pianists active today." Bronfman is known for his commanding technique and exceptional lyrical gifts. In 1973, at the age of 14, he immigrated to Israel with his family, and made his international debut just two years later with Zubin Mehta and the Montreal Symphony. Bronfman now appears regularly with a variety of eminent ensembles, from the Berlin Philharmonic to the Orchestre de Paris. An established chamber music performer, he has collaborated with the Emerson, Cleveland, Guarneri, and Juilliard Quartets and performed alongside Yo-Yo Ma and Joshua Bell, among others. Also an accomplished recording artist, Bronfman won a Grammy award in 1997 for his recording of the three Bartók piano concertos with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Recent career highlights include acting as one of Carnegie Hall's "Perspectives" artists during the 2007–2008 season, during which Bronfman partnered with some of the world's greatest orchestras and conductors, including the Vienna Philharmonic with Valery Gergiev, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra with Mariss Jansons, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra with James Levine, and the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. ■

For tickets or additional information, contact the University Musical Society at 764-2538, (800) 221-1229, or online at http://www.ums.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the League Ticket Office (911 N. University Ave.). UMS Ticket Office hours are Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–1 p.m., closed Sunday.

PHOTO BY BY J HENRY FAIR

Emanuel Ax

PHOTO BY DARIO ACOSTA

Yef m Bronfman

A Prelude Dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m. prior to the concert. Logan Skelton, associate professor of piano, U-M School of Music, Theatre and Dance, will speak. The dinner will take place at the U-M Alumni Center (200 Fletcher St.) and costs $50 per person; call 764-8489 for reservations.

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra makes UMS debut

Jim Leija, special to the WJN

The University Musical Society (UMS) will present the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Leon Botstein, on Sunday, November 16, at 4 p.m. in Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium (825 N. University Ave.). Botstein is widely praised for his creative approach to programming and inspired performances. In addition to leading the Jerusalem Symphony, Botstein directs the American Symphony Orchestra, and serves as Bard College president and co-artistic director of the Bard Music Festival. This UMS debut concert will feature works by three Jewish composers: Sternberg, Bernstein, and Copland. American violinist Robert McDuffie will perform Bernstein's *Serenade for Violin* as part of the program.

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (JSO) was founded in the 1940s as Israel's national radio orchestra and was known then as the "Kol Israel Orchestra." In the 1970s, the orchestra expanded to become the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Israel Broadcasting Authority. The JSO's repertoire has always comprised an exciting combination of the masterpieces of the past and the innovative compositions of the present. The orchestra was the first to perform in Israel the works of such composers as Sofia Gubaidolina, Henry Dutilleux, and Alfred Schnittke. In addition, the JSO regularly commissions new works from Israeli composers; its current composer-in-residence is Betty Olivero.

Leon Botstein began his career as a conductor in an unconventional manner. Following the death of his young daughter in 1981, Botstein organized a concert to benefit her public school. In an interview with *The New York Times*, he recalls, "One of my friends said, 'Why don't you conduct this concert?' And I did, and I realized that this was really my ambition." This is just one instance of Botstein's rich and varied career. He currently serves as music director and principal conductor of two ensembles: the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and the American Symphony Orchestra in New York. In 2004, he addressed the United Nations on "Why Music Matters" as part of Secretary-General Kofi Annan's lecture series. Several of his recordings have been met with critical acclaim; his recording of Popov's *Symphony No. 1* and Shostakovich's *Theme and Variations* with the London Symphony Orchestra was nominated for a Grammy Award in the category of Best Orchestral Performance. For his contributions to music, Botstein has received multiple awards, including Harvard University's prestigious Centennial Award and the Cross of Honor, First Class from the Austrian government.

Maestro Leon Botstein

In addition to his musical endeavors, Botstein is active in the realm of academia. He became the youngest college president in the history of the United States at age 23 (Franconia College in New Hampshire), and, in 1975, at age 28, he became president of New York's Bard College. During his tenure at Bard, Botstein co-founded the Bard Music Festival (which concentrates on a single composer each year) and has played an instrumental role in establishing New York City's Bard High School Early College. He is the editor of *The Musical Quarterly* and the author of numerous articles and books.

Violinist Robert McDuffie has performed with most of the major orchestras of the world, from the New York Philharmonic to the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Recent highlights include appearing with the KBS Symphony in Seoul, presenting the *Tchaikovsky Concerto* with the Atlanta Symphony, and playing alongside the Orquesta Sinfónica de Mineria in Mexico City. The 2008/09 season takes McDuffie on a 16-city U.S. tour and includes the premiere of *The American Four Seasons*, a new work by Philip Glass.

Each June, McDuffie returns to Rome as the co-founder and artistic director of the Rome Chamber Music Festival. The mayor of Rome recently awarded him the prestigious Premio Simpatica in recognition of his contribution to Roman culture. A Grammy-nominated artist, McDuffie has been profiled on NBC's *Today, CBS Sunday Morning,* and A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts.* ■

For tickets or additional information, contact the University Musical Society at 764-2538, or online at http://www.ums.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the League Ticket Office (911 N. University Ave.). UMS Ticket Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–1 p.m., closed Sunday.

Classical Kids Club

The Emanuel Ax/Yefim Bronfman concert and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra concert are both part of the Classical Kids Club series. Designed to nurture the next generation of musicians and music lovers, the Classical Kids Club allows parents to purchase up to two tickets for $10 each for students in grades 1–9 with the purchase of a $20 adult ticket. Seating is subject to availability. Tickets are available two weeks before the concert at the League Ticket Office or by phone. Children must be present when picking up tickets.

2007 SPICE* of Life

***Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults**

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

Tuesdays

11 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10.

Noon Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3 per person.

1 p.m. Games and Activities. Join in for a variety of games and activities, including Mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games.

1 p.m. Special Tuesday events, (see below for details)

1:30 p.m. Yidish tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): Open to the public as well as U-M faculty, staff, and students, all ages and levels welcome. Beanster's Café, ground floor, Michigan League. Free. For more information, call 936-2367.

Thursdays

The JCC will be closed on Thursday, November 27.

10 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, $4 per session, or 3 sessions for $10.

11 a.m. Current Events with Heather Dombey, A Jewish perspective on this week's news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.

Noon Dairy Lunch Buffet, $3 per person.

1 p.m. Thursday Special Events and Presentations, (see below for details)

2:15 p.m. Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for current book.

Fridays

The JCC will be closed on Friday, November 28.

November 7, 14, and 21, 1:30 p.m. Yiddish Reading Group meets at the Jewish Community Center. Please note location change. Call Ray Juni for additional information at 761-2765.

Tuesday Special Events

Tuesday, November 4, 1 p.m. Blood Pressure Clinic. A registered nurse from Care Response will take blood pressures, record them, and address any questions. Free. (This event will be repeated the first Tuesday of each month.)

Thursday Special Events and Presentations

Thursday, November 6: Birthdays and JCC Book Festival Speaker.

12:30 p.m. Birthday celebration for all with November birthdays! Family and friends are welcome for lunch and birthday cake.

1 p.m. Evan Fallenberg, a writer, teacher, and translator currently living in Israel will discuss his book, *Light Fell.*

Thursday, November 13, 1 p.m.: JCC Book Festival Speaker Aaron Cohen, a former Israeli Special Forces operative and California-based counterterrorism consultant, will discuss his book, *Brotherhood of Warriors.*

Thursday, November 20: The Pride and Honor Flight

12:30 p.m. Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker will be available for discussion, questions, and assistance.

1 p.m. Lynn Monson, assistant Metro editor of the *Ann Arbor News*, will share a presentation about his recent trip with local veterans to the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Thursday, November 27: The JCC is closed for Thanksgiving

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Wednesdays through November 26, 1:30–3 p.m. Understanding Happiness Instructor Mike Murray. $20. Call 998-9351 for more information.

Afternoon Delight at the Jewish Community Center

Wednesday, November 12, 1:30 p.m. refreshments, 2 p.m. concert presented by the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra with Maestro Arie Lipsky and Friends

A physical, emotional, and spiritual approach to breast cancer protection program planned for November

Shoshana Mandel, special to the WJN

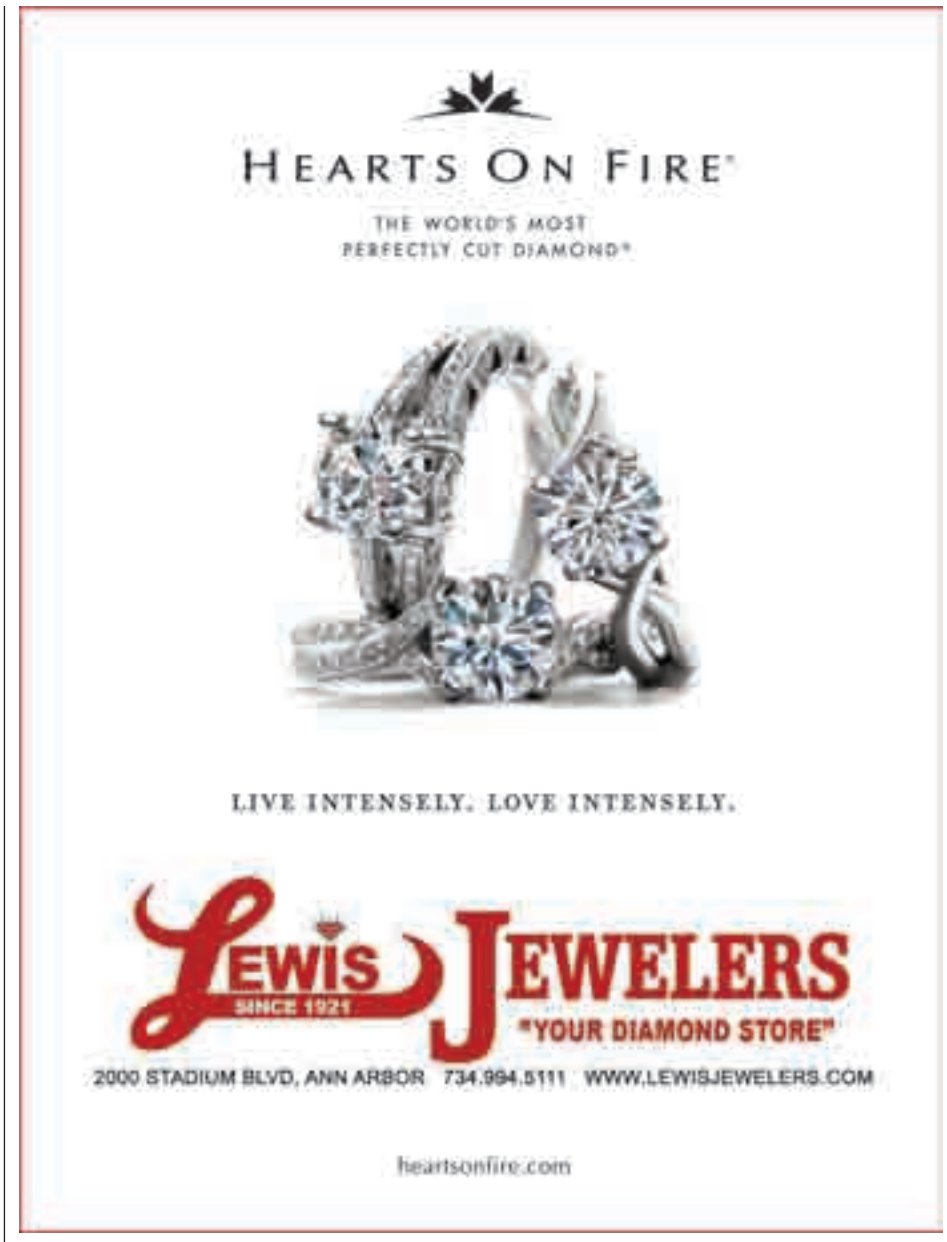
The Temple Beth Emeth Sisterhood, Beth Israel Women's League, Hadassah, and ORT are cosponsoring a free community-wide wellness event at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County on November 23, from 2–4 p.m. In response to the popularity of their presentation at last year's Hadassah Regional conference, "Breast Cancer, What's Being Jewish Got to Do With It?" Dr. Ruth Lerman, a Beaumont Hospital internist specializing in breast disease, and Whitney Ducaine, a certified genetics counselor specializing in cancer genetics, return to discuss breast cancer prevention.

Dr. Lerman is a breast cancer survivor who has studied with several world-renowned physicians, including Rachel Remen and Jon Kabat-Zinn, who specialize in mind/body approaches to healing. Lerman has added these principles to her repertoire of traditional medical care in the healing process. She was a founding member of a program that utilizes *mikvah* for spiritual healing during breast cancer recovery, and developed and leads the Silver Linings Breast Cancer Survivors Workshops, which offer support and educational services in the Metro Detroit area.

The team will be talking about how to lower the risk of developing breast cancer, use effective screening techniques to detect breast cancer as early as possible, and become proactive and empowered through the newest medical approaches, mind/body medicine, and Jewish spirituality. The genes that cause an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer in Jewish women will also be addressed, as will determining when to consider genetic testing, the myths surrounding testing, and the benefits of knowing this information.

Leman will demonstrate and teach several useful techniques. Participants are advised to wear comfortable clothes. Participation is not mandatory to attend.

For further information, contact Hadassah Programming Co-chairs Eileen Thacker (302-1810), or Martha Young (769-7523).



Overseas Allocations reflect greater Ann Arbor Jewish community's values

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and the local Jewish community provide important support for agencies and programs in Israel and around the world, as recommended by the Federation's 2008 Israel/Overseas Committee (IOC). Members of the IOC, chaired by Mae Sander and Carey Sherman, evaluate new and existing programs with the goal of funding those that reflect the values of the Greater Ann Arbor Jewish community and can most effectively accomplish their mission.

For the past three years, the Israel/Overseas Committee and the Federation Board of Directors have focused funding priorities in the following categories:

- Aid to minority and disadvantaged populations in Israel
- Fostering Arab/Jewish understanding
- The environment
- Assistance to impoverished Jewish communities outside Israel
- Partnership 2000, with a focus on building a mutually beneficial relationship with community-to-community partner, Moshav Nahalal

Ann Arbor's Israel/Overseas funding is divided between collective and elective funding. The majority (collective), $372,400, is sent via the United Jewish Communities (UJC) to our overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). These partners help the community achieve its mission of fostering and strengthening Jewish communal life in Israel and throughout the world. In 2008, an additional $135,000 of elective funding was allocated, according to the recommendations of the IOC, to specific programs and projects within the above-mentioned funding priorities.

Jewish and Arab principals of Hand in Hand School in Wadi Ara

Aid to minority and disadvantaged populations in Israel

SELAH: Israel Crisis Management Center offers immediate emotional and material support to new immigrants facing personal crises. Through its network of over 500 volunteers, SELAH aids those who have suffered from terrorist attacks, loss of loved ones, and severe financial crises. Among their many programs and activities are support groups for grandparents raising their orphaned grandchildren, and educational assistance for victims of domestic violence. SELAH's mission is to provide essential help for new immigrants whose already precarious lives have been shattered by tragedy. The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor has been funding SELAH since 2004; this year's funding of $15,000 is the second year of a three-year commitment.

Developed by the JDC, Parents and Children Together (PACT) is a multi-year, holistic approach to address the significant learning gaps between Ethiopian- Israeli children and their Israeli peers. Ann Arbor partners with Detroit to fund PACT in Netanya where, over the past seven years of the program's existence, the language and literacy gap as measured by the numbers of children who perform poorly were reduced by 33 percent, and the gap in mathematical thinking was reduced by 81 percent. PACT programs include early daycare and extra support for day care centers in the area of literacy and mathematics, health and development resources for children and their parents, programs and cultural education to foster parental involvement, and community enrichment centers. Federation funding for this program is $10,000, and the community has been supporting PACT since 2005. Additionally, generous Ann Arbor philanthropists provide significant funding for a local enrichment center.

This year, two new projects were selected for funding in this category on the strength of recommendations from committee members who were familiar with the programs and their work in the community. The Jaffa Institute is a far-reaching organization dedicated to support for children at risk. The Welfare to Well Being project, receiving $7,000 from the Greater Ann Arbor community, provides a comprehensive "skills for work" training program for long-term unemployed women from Jaffa and south Tel Aviv who already receive assistance from the Institute's food distribution center. Participants receive training in telemarketing, computer skills, reception, and other marketable skills, and are provided coaching and seminars on proper workplace habits. The women assume real responsibilities in the distribution center to practice their workplace skills, and receive salaries. The goal is to prepare local, long-term unemployed women for economic independence and self-sufficiency through job training and placement assistance.

Ramla is a mixed town of Arabs and Jews from around the world. There is a significant immigrant population, with new arrivals encompassing a range of close-knit ethnic communities. The Ramla Mediation Center: Integrating Communities Project targets these varied communities, and attempts to create a framework that will operate to reduce conflicts by fostering dialogue, using mediation instruments, and utilizing internal ethnic methods for dispute mediation. Objectives for the year include developing a protocol for referring and handling disputes within specific immigrant communities, exposing the immigrant communities to new mediation concepts, and expanding the pool of mediators from the Former Soviet Union (FSU) and Ethiopia. This project was allocated $7,000 for 2008.

Fostering Arab/Jewish understanding

Since 2005, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor has been funding Hand in Hand Schools; this year's allocation is $14,000. Founded 9 years ago by two educators—one Jewish, one Arab—the schools offer the opportunity for Jewish and Arab children to learn together in a bilingual, multi-cultural environment. From its start with one small elementary school in the Galilee, Hand in Hand now educates more than 750 students in Jerusalem, Wadi Ara, Beer Sheva, and the Galilee. Each school is co-led by Jewish and Arab principals, co-taught by Jewish and Arab teachers and evenly balanced between Jewish and Arab students.

A New Way (in Hebrew, *Efshar Acheret*) seeks to have a long-term impact in developing Jewish/Arab relations through education and shared experience, primarily through enrichment programs in the areas of music, art, drama, communications, and science. The program brings together students (and their parents), who otherwise learn in segregated schools, for workshops and field trips led by Jewish and Arab young adults. The multi-cultural leadership project seeks to extend these relationships by developing leadership skills and fostering meaningful dialogue. The $10,000 contributed by Jewish Federation will allow A New Way to continue its expansion to the Galilee, particularly in the Partnership 2000 region around Nazareth.

The environment

The Jewish Federation has been funding environmental initiatives in Israel since 2004, when an allocation was made to the Heschel Center Environmental Fellows program. Most recently, funding was provided to the Society for the Protection of Nature, for the completion of a trail around the *Kinneret* (Sea of Galilee). This year, $15,000 was allocated to Lotem: Integrated Nature Studies for the development of a solar generator at its educational facility. Lotem offers programs to help people of all abilities enjoy the glories of nature in the land of Israel, via field trips, extracurricular activities, and creative workshops for people with special needs, as well as activities for children in the regular state education system. Lotem's facilities are not connected to the national infrastructure, and there is no source of electrical power; the solar energy system will provide electricity for educational and practical needs. The Federation's grant has been matched by an Israeli philanthropic foundation.

Assistance to Jewish communities outside Israel

Although the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) receives significant funding from collective contributions to the UJC, the basic needs of the impoverished elderly in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) continue to increase exponentially. Additionally, the devaluation of the dollar has made it increasingly difficult for the JDC to meet the tremendous demand for their services. Since 2003, the Ann Arbor Jewish community has been contributing to the JDC's programs in the FSU; programs that provide humanitarian care to over 240,000 elderly Jews across 11 time zones, including food, medicine, warm clothes, and fuel to heat their homes. For 2008 the allocation is $25,000.

In 2003, the Jewish Federation began providing additional funding to the JDC to help the Jewish community in Argentina deal with a catastrophic economic crisis. While the Jewish welfare roles have decreased, they still remain high, and the JDC provides a number of basic benefits to needy Jews, including monthly supermarket debit cards to purchase food, school lunches, medicines, and housing subsidies to keep people in their homes. Ann Arbor provides additional funding to the Tinok Baby Help Pro-

continued on next page

Dorit Mekler from Nahalal and Cheryl Sugerman at Celebrate Israel.

Eva Solomon and nature guide Ori Friedland on Lotem's fully accessible nature trail

continued from previous page

gram, which safeguards the health and developmental needs of Jewish infants, toddlers, and pregnant women, who were particularly affected by the economic collapse. Tinok distributes additional food (especially baby formula and vitamins), inoculates children, offers subsidies for daycare, loans baby equipment, and offers educational workshops for mothers. As Argentina's economy continues to recover, the Jewish community is gradually regaining its previous independence. From a funding high of $25,000 in 2005, funding in Argentina has decreased to $12,000 in 2008. It is anticipated that the need for this allocation will decrease to zero over the next couple of years.

Partnership 2000: Community-to-Community Relationship with Moshav Nahalal

Partnership 2000 was established in 1995 as a method to foster greater connections between Diaspora Jewish communities and particular regions in Israel. Ann Arbor collaborates in a partnership between Michigan's Jewish communities and the Central Galilee (Nazereth Ilit, Migdal Ha'Emek, and the Jezreel Valley). During the past year, Ann Arbor embarked on a closer community-to-community relationship with Moshav Nahalal, a community with whom there has been a connection via the Hebrew Day School and the primary school in Nahalal. This has expanded to include the broader Ann Arbor community, through the Jewish Educators Council. Projects on-going and planned for the coming year include Nahalal's participation in Celebrate Israel, the Box Project (3-D pen-pal project involving families in Ann Arbor and Nahalal), Ann Arbor/Nahalal Family Fitness Challenge (sign up at http://nformationdesign.com/a2n/), Ann Arbor/Nahalal Reads, teen visits to Nahalal, and more. ■

For more information about Israel/Overseas funding or the Nahalal/Ann Arbor partnership, contact Eileen Freed, eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org, or 677-0100.

Economic bailout package extends charitable giving opportunity

David Shtulman, special to the WJN

As part of the recent economic recovery legislation, Congress extended the charitable IRA rollover provision contained in the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that permits taxpayers to use their IRA to help accomplish their philanthropic goals.

Through 2009, those 70 years of age or older, may make a gift of up to $100,000 to the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor Annual Campaign, or create a permanent endowment fund in the Jewish Community Foundation of Washtenaw County, drawn from their IRA. This gift will be counted toward the required minimum distribution, and will have no impact on federal income taxes. To obtain this benefit, taxpayers must instruct their IRA administrator to transfer funds directly to the Federation or Foundation. Funds drawn from the IRA first and then contributed will lose the tax benefit.

IRA charitable rollovers are available only this year and next. They cannot be made to donor advised funds, supporting organizations, private foundations, or split-interest trusts, or in exchange for charitable gift annuities.

Unlike a cash withdrawal from an IRA, a direct contribution will be excluded from income for federal purposes, and thus is not taxed. It will not be eligible for a charitable tax deduction, since it is not counted as federal income, but it will not count toward the annual percentage limitation on other deductible gifts, nor will it reduce other itemized deductions.

Those interested in learning more about the IRA Charitable Rollover and philanthropic opportunities in the Jewish community should call David Shtulman at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, 677-0100 and seek the advice of a professional tax advisor.

David Shtulman is executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

From the new community *shaliach*

Tomer Zur, special to the WJN

It has been a month since I arrived to Ann Arbor, and I wanted to share with you some of my thoughts and some of the work I have done until now.

First of all, this is not my first time in Ann Arbor, and I was happy to get the great opportunity to be the first *shaliach* (emissary) to the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

I find Ann Arbor to be the perfect combination between a small and quiet town, and a place in which you will always find something to do. (When I was told I was coming back to this great city, I was quite excited.)

A little about myself: I'm part of the education department at the Jewish Agency for Israel, and I have previous experience at a few different summer camps. I've spent three amazing summers at Camp Tamarack, and one summer at a camp in South Africa.

In Israel, I was studying theater/acting, and when I go back home, my main plan is to study special education. Before going back to school, I decided to accept the challenge to be a community shaliach and to come to Ann Arbor.

Now, you are probably asking yourself What has Tomer done here?

My first plan was to get to know my new environment and to meet with the colorful groups in the community. It was a great experience, to learn about the different aspects of each group and to try to understand the way to combine them all together into one big community. After a couple of weeks, I started the actual work. Just a few of those things include speaking to Hadassah women at their lovely opening evening, staffing my own Israeli table at the Jewish Community Center's Apples and Honey fair, and teaching Israeli culture in Hebrew to 7th graders at Beth Israel Congregation. I've discussed several Israeli topics with curious 5th graders at the Hebrew day School, and have joined the people who are doing a wonderful job with the connection between Ann Arbor and Nahalal…and that's just the beginning! I've only been here a month, but I already feel

Tomer Zur at the Apples and Honey event, September 2008

at home after doing so much. A large part of my quick comfort is due to the amazing welcoming and warm-feeling that I've received from everyone I met. From the families that have invited me to their houses, to all of the people asking me how I'm doing, and smiling and wishing me luck, I feel that I couldn't ask for a better place to be. Thank you all so much.

I have a lot of plans for the future, and I will let you all know about them every month. Please look forward to my articles about happenings in Israel, things that are happening in Jewish life, and what's going on in mine! My main goal is to get to know each and every one of the people in this amazing community, and I think it's important that you everyone gets to know me as well.

Please feel more than comfortable to call, send me e-mails, and ask me anything you want—or just invite me to a Shabbat dinner. ■

New look for Federation web site

Laura Berger, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor has overhauled their website at *www.jewishannarbor.org.* The redesign took place during the summer months and incorporated the input of the Federation staff, as well as community members. The goal of the redesign was to present the community with a user-friendly, inviting and accessible Jewish Federation web site. With more images providing an attractive look on the front page, visitors are drawn in and encouraged to explore the extensive content throughout the site.

The Jewish Federation web site is a portal for information, not only about the Federation's activities, but as a place for online visitors to connect with the Jewish community in the Ann Arbor area. For example, on the Young Adult Division page, young professionals, singles, and parents of young children can learn about events for the whole family, monthly bar nights with a volunteer component, or the upcoming annual campaign event Night of Hilarity and Charity at the Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Those looking for breaking news will enjoy the Jerusalem Post's frequently updated news ticker.

Those who have visited the site previously will notice that while the look is different, the same valuable information is now organized in a logical way, making it even more accessible. Navigation tabs across the top of the screen intuitively direct the visitor to information about the Federation's resource allocations, scholarships for Jewish summer camps and Israel experiences, involvement opportunities for people of all interests and ages, articles related to Jewish life, and much more. Special features include a one-click button to the "Community Calendar" and a community directory of Jewish resources, organizations, and activities.

Visitors can also sign up to receive the LINK, the weekly e-newsletter of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Delivered every Friday, the LINK highlights upcoming events of interest to the Jewish community, as well as relevant Israel-related news items, and a meaningful Shabbat message from the Federation's executive director, David Shtulman.

Suggestions and comments regarding the web site can be directed to Laura Berger, director of outreach and e-communications at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Berger can be reached at 677-0100, or laura@jewishannarbor.org. ■

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JFS car donation keeps people employed

Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

When Michele Leshan and Steve Rubenstein were ready to give up their old, trusted car they chose to give it to Jewish Family Services of Greater Ann Arbor. Since they donated their Toyota Camry two years ago, the car has been used every day for work by the local family who received it.

This family is lucky, but JFS has a waiting list of people in need of working vehicles. Transportation can be a major barrier to getting a job in an area with limited bus routes and no other public transportation options. Those people waiting for vehicles include a single mother facing expensive car repairs, a recently arrived Iraqi family of six, and an older Russian émigré whose vehicle is essential to his various part-time jobs, as well as helping transport family and friends to medical appointments.

Not having a safe, reliable car prevents JFS clients from working, poses a major financial hurdle, and slows their progress to achieve self-sufficiency and economic independence.

When they were ready to donate their car, Leshan and Rubenstein contacted Jewish Family Services and learned that a needy family could use their old car. They liked that their reliable vehicle would have a new life with a local family. They also confirmed that their donation would qualify for an income-tax deduction at its fair market value on their next tax return.

JFS assisted with the paperwork and provided transportation to Leshanback to her home. The next day, JFS had a mechanic examine the car for safety and arranged for the new owner to take possession of the car.

"This is the first car I ever owned," notes Leshan, "and we are both thrilled that someone else is putting it to good use."

JFS also participates in Charity Motors, a Detroit-based organization that auctions cars for local charities. JFS and other non-profits receive 70 percent of the purchase price as a charitable donation. JFS uses these funds to provide financial and emotional support to local families facing unemployment or financial crises. ■

JFS volunteers help clients find jobs

Deborah Renner and Mira Sussman, special to the WJN

Can you imagine having to conduct a job search, apply for jobs, and conduct interviews in a country in which the language is not your native tongue? Having been fortunate enough to secure a job, can you imagine the difficulty you might have communicating effectively with your coworkers and supervisors?

Jewish Family Services (JFS) Employment Coordinator Mira Sussman assists non-native English speakers in overcoming such employment related barriers. For many of these clients, this may be the first time they have to write a resume, made more difficult by the fact that their English is often very rudimentary. They also need to learn how to use the Internet to search for job postings, fill out complicated and lengthy job applications, and become comfortable in the interview situation. On the job, they need to be able to communicate effectively in both written and spoken English. Preparing clients to accomplish these tasks on their own requires intensive one-on-one work, as well as a keen sensitivity to cultural differences.

JFS volunteers work with Sussman to expand the employment services JFS is able to provide. Arouba Jassem is one client who has benefited from the help of volunteers. Bob Milstein worked with Jassem to create a resume and conduct a job search on the Michigan Works job bank website (*http://www.michworks.org*). Jassem said, "Thank you so much, working with Bob will help me find a job." Today Jassem understands the process of applying for a job in the United States, and has greater confidence to do this on her own.

Dmitriy Levin, now employed by Recellular, is another community member helped by a JFS Employment Services volunteer. Levin has all the technical skills needed to perform his job perfectly. However, his difficulty in communicating clearly was impacting his performance as well as his potential to be promoted to a higher position. Levin's supervisor came to JFS and asked if JFS could find a volunteer to work with Levin on his English. The supervisor made it clear that Levin's position could be in jeopardy if his English did not improve.

JFS located a very committed volunteer with previous experience in literacy tutoring. Judy Linden has been working with Levin on a weekly basis since December 2007, driving to his place of employment in Dexter. She keeps in close contact with his supervisor, and develops and conducts lessons to improve Levin's workplace related English skills. Knowing that her volunteer efforts have helped this man to remain productively employed in his field is extremely rewarding. Linden explained, "I've found it very rewarding. I've also learned as much from him as I hope he's learned from me." For Levin, their work has been very useful as well. He expressed his gratitude, saying, "This is helping me. I better understand people and can explain to co-workers more and more. I appreciate JFS and Judy for helping me. Thank you very much."

There are a number of volunteer positions available to those interested in helping JFS clients with employment issues, including assistance in creating resumes, completing job applications, and practicing interview skills. A volunteer job developer is also needed to network with local businesses and organizations in order to expand job opportunities for JFS clients. ■

For more information, or to apply, Contact Deborah Renner, Volunteer Services and Community Outreach Coordinator, Deborah@jfsannarbor.org, 769-0209.

JCC 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival

November 5-17

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Wednesday, November 5

OPENING NIGHT

7:00 p.m. Dessert Reception

7:30 p.m. Author Presentation

ILANA BLUMBERG

Thursday, November 6

12:00 NOON

EVAN FALLENBERG

JULIE HALPERT

7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 7

EILEEN POLLACK

12:00 NOON

Books Provided by Borders

7 Lunch & Learns

Book & Author Dinner

8 Evening Presentations

2 Childrens Programs

Sunday, November 9

11:00 a.m.

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ANNE-MARIE ASNER

JEFFREY ZASLOW

SPONSOR RECEPTION & DINNER

6:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m. Author Presentation

OPEN TO ALL

Monday, November 10

MICHAEL WEX

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 11

12:00 NOON

MARTIN FLETCHER

ELINOR BURKETT

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 12

12:00 NOON

PETER MANSEAU

IRINA REYN

7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 13

12:00 NOON

AARON COHEN

MAX & ELI SUSSMAN

7:30 p.m.

Cooking Demonstration

Friday, November 14

EVAN HANDLER

JFS EVENT

12:00 NOON

Sunday, November 16

10:00 a.m. LOCAL AUTHOR BRUNCH

Celebrating our Community's Creativity

11:00 a.m.

For Elementary Age Children

CAMBRIA GORDON

LISA ALCALAY KLUG

7:00 p.m.

At U of M Hillel

Monday, November 17

RABBI BRAD HIRSCHFIELD

12:00 NOON

Call JCC for reservations, schedule or more information 734-971-0990

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Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County

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Programs at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Monday Evening Torah Study

Rabbi Dobrusin

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin presents "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time" on Mondays, beginning November 3 (with the exception of November 17) at 8 p.m. This drop-in class will examine speculative and subjective *midrashic* and *aggadic* texts (non-legal rabbinic exposition of the Torah) concerning the Story of Creation and the coming of the Messiah, the end of days, and the "world to come," as well as contemporary authors who have based themselves on these texts. The texts will be studied in both English and Hebrew, but no knowledge of Hebrew is required.

Lunch and Learn

Every Wednesday in November (except November 26) from noon–1:15 p.m. at the Garfunkel Schteingart Activities Center (2010 Washtenaw) Rabbi Dobrusin and Rabbi Blumenthal provide a stimulating topic for discussion. Participants are asked to bring a "dairy" lunch, while the refreshments and desserts will be provided by the synagogue.

Introduction to Judaism

Rabbi Kim Blumenthal offers this class at no charge to the general public on Wednesdays, November 12—February 24 at 7:45 p.m. This 13 session course is intended for individuals who are looking to understand the fundamentals of Judaism. It is also a good learning opportunity for people who are in the process of converting to Judaism. Each session will be a combination of learning and discussion, with time devoted to exploring questions from members of the group.

Rabbi Kim Blumenthal

Shabbat Limud

Shabbat Limud (Sabbath Study) is offered on the first and third Saturdays of the month, from 9—9:50 a.m. (before the Shacharit service) faciliated by Rabbi Robert Dobrusin. This drop-in session will allow participants to discuss and debate traditional texts with a focus on the critical issues faced in the world today: the environment, hunger, poverty, medical ethics, war and peace, and others.

Shabbat child care and youth services

Childcare for pre-schoolers aged 2–5 years-old is offered every Saturday from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Tot Shabbat for 3–5 year-olds and their parents meets on Saturday mornings, November 8 (with Peretz Hirshbein) and November 22 (with Jessica Kander) from 11:15 a.m.–noon. Participants enjoy stories, puppets, and songs, and join the rest of the congregation at a special kids table during the kiddush. The *Moadon* program offers a drop in gathering place for children in elementary school beginning at 10 a.m. followed by a Junior Congregation Service at 11 a.m. Twice a month, on November 8 and November 22, children in kindergarten through first grade are offered a separate learning service at 11 a.m. just for their age group called M & M (*Minyan Matok*, "the sweet service.") run by Jake Kander, Beth Israel's program director.

Sushi Shabbat

Beth Israel offers a Japanese cuisine Friday night dinner on November 21 at 7:00 p.m., preceded by the Friday night service at 6 p.m. at which Jewish Haiku poems will be read. There is a charge for dinner. For further details, call 665-9897.

New wave of congregational singing at BIC

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

On Sunday, November 9, at 1:30 p.m., Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz, considered the foremost authority on congregational song in the United States today, will share and teach some of the new melodies used during Kabbalat Shabbat services at many congregations.

Jeffrey Shiovitz is a native of Detroit. He is a 1981 graduate of the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and past president of the Cantors Institute Alumni Association. He is chairman of publications for the Cantors Assembly and past chairman of its Westchester/Rockland Region. Hazzan Shiovitz has served Congregation Sons of Israel since 1988. He is a popular lecturer on the subject of Jewish music and musicology. His books include *B'kol Echad: In One Voice*, the official songbook of the Conservative Movement, which has been reprinted 28 times; 900,000 copies are currently in print worldwide. His book *Roni V'Simchi: Rejoice and Sing, Holidays in Song* is a collection of holiday songs published by the Jewish Theological Seminary. His publication, *Israel at 50: A Program and Resource Guide,* was published by the Cantors Assembly in 1998, the same year that *Aytz Hayim Hi, A Seder for Tu B'Shevat* was published by the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. He is the co-editor with Robert Kieval of *Derech HaShatz: The Hazzan's Manual*, published in 2001 by the Cantors Assembly. Cantor Shiovitz is currently working on *Zamru Lo: The Next Generation*, a three volume series of congregational melodies. The first volume, *Congregational Melodies for Shabbat*, was published in 2004 to glowing reviews. The second volume, *Melodies for the High Holidays*, was published in 2006. He is busy working on the third and final volume, *Melodies of Hallel, Shalosh Regalim and Weekdays.* ■

Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz,

TBE November programs

Roinnie Simon, special to the WJN

Shabbat Service recalls Kristalnacht

Friday, November 7, at 7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth will remember the anniversary of Kristalnacht with a recounting of the personal experiences of one of its members. Everyone in the community is invited to attend. (See article, front page.)

Renaissance Group discusses "What Happened Last Tuesday?"

Michael Traugott

On November 11 at 10:30 a.m., Michael Traugott, a nationally recognized professor of communication studies and political science at the University of Michigan, will present a lecture entitled "What Happened Last Tuesday?" Professor Traugott will talk about the November election outcomes, including the campaigns, the primaries and caucuses, and the pressing need for some further reforms in the primary and caucus calendar. This lecture is part of the Distinguished Lecture Series of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Michigan.

The Temple Beth Emeth Renaissance Group has arranged for its members to be guests at this lecture, which will be held at the Best Western (2900 Jackson Ave.) from 10–11:30 a.m.. Lunch and discussion will follow at Carlyle Restaurant (3660 Jackson Ave.). Lecture tickets are $10 for those not already members of the Distinguished Lecture Series. Send check for tickets to Temple Beth Emeth with a note specifying the "Osher event." Lunch will be on your own account. For more information or to RSVP, contact Judy Gourdji, jgourdji@comcast.net, 994-4046.

Twenties & Thirties

The Temple Beth Emeth Twenties and Thirties (TNT) group will hold a First Friday dinner on November 7 at 6:30 p.m. TNT has monthly dinners at the homes of members, fostering a welcoming, inclusive Jewish community through monthly social and cultural activities. Non-TBE members are welcome. For further information, visit their website at http://www.templebethemeth.org/tnt, email tnt@templebethemeth.org, or call 665-4744.

Jewish Hikers of Michigan

Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM) is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth's Caring Community and is open to anyone. All adult couples, singles, and children are welcome. The hikes take place on a monthly basis on different local trails. All skill levels are welcome. Participants are encouraged to bring backpacks, munchies, and drinks. Each hike lasts approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. For further information, or to carpool, contact Eli at 883-9522 or Ronnie at 665-4744, or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com. Web site: http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan.

Learning Services with Reconstructionist Havurah

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

A new series of educational "Learning Services" is being offered on a monthly basis by the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, and is open to the entire community. The streamlined,two-hour service includes plenty of music, time to discuss the weekly Torah portion, and detailed explanations of prayers and other concepts. A guitar rounds out most of the music, while a drum and other percussion instruments make the occasional appearance. The service is led by Aura Ahuvia, a rabbinical student with ALEPH (the Alliance for Jewish Renewal).

The idea for the service grew out of the group members' realization that they wanted to deepen their knowledge of specific prayers and more general theological concepts in order to facilitate their ability to find services more meaningful. There is active participation throughout the morning. The service is appropriate for adults, or anyone studying to become a bar or bat mitzvah.

Learning Services with the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah are scheduled for November 8 and December 13, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. All community members are welcome to attend. For further information, go to www.aarecon.org, or call 445.1910.

AA Recons Kabbalat Shabbat discussion November 14

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

America will select a new president on November 4. But then what? What signals will it send? And what will the new president do about it? To help answer those questions, national political journalist Jonathan Cohn will speak at the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah's monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Discussion, Friday, November 14, at 6:15 p.m. The discussion will be preceded by a brief Kiddush.

Cohn is a senior editor at the *New Republic*, where he's been writing about politics and policy for more than a decade. But he may better known as the author of *Sick*, an award-winning 2007 book on America's health care crisis—a topic sure to figure prominently in next year's political agenda. Jonathan's writing has also appeared in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, among other publications, but for the last seven years he and his family have called Ann Arbor home.

The monthly Kabbalat Shabbat Discussions run from 6:15–7:45 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. All are welcome to attend; no RSVP necessary Fore more information or for questions, go to www.aarecon.org, or call 445.1910.

Tel Aviv, a fascinating city by the sea

Rabbi Rob Dobrusin, special to the WJN

Last month, I began my series of articles on Israel for the *Washtenaw Jewish News*. My intention in this series is not to address political issues, or to presume a deep and intimate familiarity with any place in Israel. Rather, I want to share some thoughts from the perspective of an American Rabbi about some of the places that travelers to Israel are likely to visit.

My topic for this month is Tel Aviv. I first visited Tel Aviv at the invitation of a well-known colonel. I'm not referring to a military officer, rather Colonel Sanders. Back in 1979 Jerusalem, where I lived and studied, did not have any of the American chain restaurants you might find today. But Tel Aviv had a kosher Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant and I couldn't wait to go to Tel Aviv to see what I had been missing all these years.

I have to say that this first trip to Tel Aviv was disappointing. The bus station was impossibly crowded, the streets were noisy and I felt overpowered by the exhaust, the weather was unseasonably hot and humid, and the chicken was greasy and not very good. I left Tel Aviv that day assuming I wouldn't be back very soon.

Subsequent visits to Tel Aviv have been much different. I have found some wonderful aspects to visiting the city and I now look forward to time spent there.

Part of the change has been in my own attitude. I first went to Tel Aviv while I was still in the early stages of my developing love affair with Jerusalem; and in a self-righteous and patronizing way, I looked down on Tel Aviv. I thought that it couldn't possibly offer this American Jew very much nourishment for the soul. As the years went by though, I found more and more in the city to enjoy and be moved by: the beautiful beach along the Mediterranean, museums, theatre and music (I can't say I actually have gone to many plays and concerts, but knowing they are there is significant), a great outdoor market, interesting architecture, and a unique brand of history.

Tel Aviv's history is vastly different from the history of Jerusalem. Instead of walking the streets of Jerusalem thinking about King David, it is the picture that I invariably think of, the one so many of us have seen: The founders of Tel Aviv standing on an empty sand dune in 1909, ready to build the first modern Jewish city. Looking around the mass of buildings, the financial institutions, the hotels and shops and boutiques, it is hard to believe that only 100 years have passed since that historic moment.

Of course, one could ask, after this century, what has developed? What makes Tel Aviv a Jewish city? Is it the fact that the population is overwhelmingly Jewish? Is it Hebrew, is it Jewish symbols (like the plumbing supply store I passed during my first visit, which had a Hanukkah menorah made out of copper pipes)? It is easy for an observant Jew to wonder what one could possibly connect with in a contemporary, western-style metropolis with all of the usual problems of urban life. But that's unfair.

There were many ideas that inspired the early Zionists. For some, it was spiritual yearnings. For others, it was the desire to be a "normal" people in our own land. In so many ways, Tel Aviv is a "normal" city, and that makes it a fascinating place to visit for a Jew accustomed to feeling most "Jewish" in a synagogue.

I wouldn't say Tel Aviv is my favorite place in Israel, although the restaurants in the Yemenite Quarter are among my favorite places to find myself. But I would say I have come to deeply appreciate this fast-paced, congested, noisy, fascinating City by the Sea.

On a visit to Tel Aviv many years back, I walked out onto the balcony of our seaside hotel at dawn, looked down onto the beach, and saw some elderly women, apparently in Israel since the early days of the state or before, doing early morning calisthenics. I watched them for a few minutes, and then looked back in the other direction to a city which could have been New York, Miami Beach, Athens, or any other contemporary city.

Israelis and those who love Israel always wonder how to evaluate Israel's history and what its future will hold. I'm not sure I know either of these answers. But somewhere between the elderly women doing exercises, the suburban stretches of highway with American toy stores, home repair and office supply franchises, the occasional synagogue, the noise and the hubbub, is an example of how much Israel has grown. I'll let someone else decide, or use another time to think about, whether it's the right direction or not. In the meantime, I'll just enjoy walking the streets of Tel Aviv, taking in the atmosphere, enjoying the sound of Hebrew, and marveling at all the city has to offer. ■

Noah teaches lessons on our exile

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The Torah portion that we read on Shabbat of November 1 is the famous story of Noah and the flood. It was at the express command of God that Noah first entered the ark: "Come you and all your household into the ark." It was also at God's express command that he left it, as we are told, "Go forth from the ark, you and your wife and your sons, and your sons' wives with you."

Thus it is difficult to understand why Noah sent out the raven and the dove to determine if the flood had ended. If Noah was supposed to wait until God told him it was time to leave, why did he send the birds out to see if the waters had abated? Why wasn't he content to wait for God's command?

In truth, by sending the birds from the ark, Noah was expressing his strong desire to leave it. Rather than waiting for God to come to him, he did all in his power to facilitate his exit. Noah sent the raven, and indeed sent the dove out twice, in the hope that the flood had receded.

When God saw Noah's efforts and observed his intense longing to go out, He hastened to issue His command. In fact, the command "Go out of the ark" was given on the merit of Noah's exertions.

Exile is likened to the *mabul* (flood), for in exile our perceptions of reality are *mevulbal* (confused). The spiritual nature of the world is hidden, whereas physicality is easily perceived. In exile it is hard for the Jew to appreciate that his true function is the service of God, for the material world conspires to obscure the underlying reality. The confusion of exile is so great that the falsehood of the world is often mistaken for truth.

In such circumstances it is forbidden to sit back with our arms folded. We cannot wait until God will come and tell us to go out of exile.

Learning from the example of Noah, we must also do all in our power to determine if the misfortune has ended, and hasten our departure from exile. Rather than wait placidly for the exile to be over, we must expend all necessary efforts to put an end to it immediately.

What can we do? First, we must believe that at any minute the exile can end and Moshiach will come. Second, we should disseminate the belief in Moshiach and the anticipation of his coming. We must also increase our performance of good deeds, and bombard God with petitions and prayers that He remove us at once from the exile and bring us to Redemption.

When God will see our strong desire and intense longing to leave exile, most assuredly He will hasten to send our Moshiach. In the merit of our efforts He will certainly fulfill our hearts' desire, and bring Moshiach to us at once. ■

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Student newspaper club added to other enrichment activities

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

The Hebrew Day School Newspaper *Chug* (club) is the most recent addition to a number of enrichment clubs at the Hebrew Day School (HDS). The club is lead by Dr. Laura Hirshbein, parent of two HDS students, who is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Michigan and a professional writer. This semester, 12 students are participating in the club, which publishes a school newspaper, *The HDS Times*. The newspaper includes student fiction, poetry, book reviews, puzzles, cartoons, school updates and happenings, student opinions and surveys, and a review of favorite movie stars. All of the sections are written by the students. Hirshbein decided to organize and lead this club because she "loves writing and wanted to share this joy with young people."

Avi Lessure playing chess

***The HDS Times* editors and writers**

The Newspaper Club is one of several after-school and lunch-time clubs that are offered to enrich the HDS education. Others include: chess, Israeli dancing, juggling, computer lab, and a Klez Kids Band. The clubs are either led by volunteer parents, community members, or teachers, and provide additional beyond-the-classroom learning opportunities to HDS students.

Parent Debbie Zivan started the Juggling Club in January of 2007 with six students in grades three through five. Since then it has grown to ten students who meet weekly during recess to practice juggling and improve their coordination. Zivan learned to juggle at Camp Ramah when she was a teenager, and has been enjoying this special skill ever since. "I love to juggle and wanted to share this love with the kids," she said. "Each child is different in his or her ability to learn how to juggle, but they all show remarkable determination and willingness to learn." Debbie brings with her a large bag of balls, pins, and scarves for the students to use. The jugglers perform at the school's student talent show in March.

Eileen Freed, Director of Israel, Overseas and Community Relations for the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, has been teaching a modern Israeli dance elective at HDS for several years. Once a week the children practice during recess; they perform for the school and the community a few times a year. Eileen is a parent of three HDS alumni.

The Chess Club was started over two years ago by alumni parent Richard Frey, who since then has helped 30 students from kindergarten through 5th grade learn to play chess. As an HDS alumni parent, Frey knew that HDS students would appreciate and excel at the game. Frey is a former special education teacher who taught chess to emotionally impaired children. In 2007, HDS supporter Carl Cohen donated funds to HDS for the purpose of hiring a chess master to join Frey in teaching the more advanced students. Chess master John Smalec subsequently worked with students for approximately 10 weeks, and greatly improved the level of play at the school.

Led by teacher Carol Gannon, the Computer Lab Club offers opportunities for students to experiment with projects of their own. Students have made PowerPoint presentations and movies, starting with script writing and adding music and special effects. Upper grade children are trained as mentors to help the younger grade children.

Yotam Fisher-Pinsker juggling a few balls

The Klez Kids Band is a group of young students who supplement their private music lessons with this school ensemble. The students learn to blend their own musical parts with the music of the other players. They also gain performance experience multiple times per year, performing in the community for seniors at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County and Glacier Hills Retirement Center, as well as for the school's student talent show, Chanukah festival, and Graduation ceremonies. The Klez Kids Band is led by music teacher Debra Gombert.

Says Abigail Hirshbein, who participates in two *chugim*, "Klez Kids is a really fun band in which kids can play their instruments and just have fun. I also really like how kids can be creative with what they write in the Newspaper *chug*." ■

For more information about the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, contact info@hdsaa.org or call 971-4633. Open House for prospective students will be held Monday, December 1 and Wednesday, January 14, 7 p.m. at HDS.

JCC youth programs

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Kids' Night Out to feature Wall-E

Each month the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County offers a Kids' Night Out event featuring games, crafts, dinner, and a movie to give elementary age kids a chance to have fun with their friends and parents a chance to have a night on their own. This month's event will be held at the JCC from 6:30–10:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 22.

Following the theme of "An Inventive Evening," the event will be filled with robot-inspired games and crafts, plus dinner, and viewing of this summer's hit movie, *Wall-E*. The movie follows the futuristic adventures of a robot named Wall-E, a reconnaissance robot named Eve, and a spaceship of humans who evacuated earth hundreds of years before.

Kids' Night Out events are open to JCC members and non-members in grades K–5. The cost for JCC members is $20 (additional siblings: $18). The cost for non-members is $25 (additional siblings: $23). Registrations are due by Thursday, November 20. For additional information or to register, visit w*ww.jccannarbor.org* or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org, or 971-0990.

School's Out Programs in November

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will offer three School's Out/JCC's In days this November. On days when Hebrew Day School or Ann Arbor Public Schools are closed but the JCC is open, the JCC Youth Department offers full day School's Out programs featuring field trips or special activities. These programs are only for JCC members in grades K–5. Middle school students are also welcome to participate as helpers.

On Tuesday, November 4, a School's Out program will be offered for AAPS students. On Friday, November 14, there will be a School's Out program for HDS students. A School's Out program will also be offered on Wednesday, November 26 for both AAPS and HDS students. Programming details for each day will be available in early November. Students should bring a nut free, dairy lunch and appropriate clothing for playing outside.

The cost for each School's Out day is $34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32 for additional siblings) and $8 for Extended Care from 4–6:00 p.m. Registration is due at least three days in advance. For additional information or to register, visit *www.jccannarbor.org* or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org, 971-0990.

Enriching afterschool classes

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County has an exciting schedule of afterschool classes planned for the November–December session. Youth Enrichment classes for elementary students will begin Monday, November 10 and run through the week of December 15. These fun and stimulating afternoon enrichment classes are open to both JCC members and non-members, and run from 4:15–5:15 p.m. Supervision before and after the classes is also available.

On Mondays, a Pilo Pollow class will be offered for students in grades K–2. Hebrew Day School gym teacher Kim Braun will lead students in active games of pillow polo, a version of field hockey played with padded sticks and balls.

On Tuesdays, an Abrakadoodle Art class will be offered for students in grades K–5. In this innovative and imaginative art education class, students will explore a different artist or style each week and then produce a creative framed piece inspired by the day's lesson.

On Wednesdays, HDS gym teacher Kim Braun will run a Fit Kids class for students in grades K–2. The class will give kids an opportunity to stretch their minds and bodies as they learn about the joys and importance of proper fitness and nutrition.

On Thursday, Rebekah Gamble will offer a second session of her popular Jazzy Jewelry class for students in grades 1–5. New students are welcome to join for more fun with bead making and jewelry creation.

Also on Thursdays, a Martial Arts class for students in grades K–5 will be offered. Rabbi Peter Gluck will continue this unique Martial Arts class, which teaches basic self-defense techniques and principles in a fun and safe environment. New students are always welcome.

Registration for these classes is due by November 6. Class fees vary; contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org, or 971-0990, for more details, or visit *www.jccannarbor.org.*

JCC to run programs on snow days for grades K-8

The Youth Department of the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will once again offer Snow Day programs this winter. On days when the JCC is able to open but Ann Arbor Public Schools are cancelled due to winter weather conditions, the Youth Department will run a Snow Day program from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. for JCC members in kindergarten through eighth grades. During JCC Snow Days, students will enjoy games, gym activities, and fun in the snow under the supervision of youth director Deborah Huerta and other available staff. Students should bring a nut free, dairy lunch, and appropriate clothes for playing outside.

The Snow Days program is for JCC members only and the program fee is $50 per student (Kids' Konnection and Kids' Club participants are eligible for discounts). Registration in advance is not required, but parents will be asked to fill out a registration form and submit payment when they arrive. For more information, contact Deborah Huerta at 971-0990 or deborahhuerta@jccfed.org.

JCC installs innovative new playground equipment

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County recently completed a series of major playground enhancements that have met with rave reviews from parents and children alike.

An entirely new playground was installed, additional equipment was added to the Early Childhood Center playground, and improvements were made to the infant-toddler playground. Funding for the playground enhancements came from a variety of community sources. Key donations were received from the Benard L. Maas Foundation, Hebrew Day School, the Jewish Cultural Society, and Michael and Patricia Levine. Half of the money raised at the JCC's 2005 auction was designated for the playground, and additional funds were raised at the 2007 auction. The Jewish Community Center covered all costs that exceeded the money raised.

The addition of an innovative, barrier-free elementary playground has transformed the area behind the JCC into a vibrant space for children to play and adults to relax. The playground features a paved play area with a basketball net, several picnic benches, and four pieces of unique playground equipment surrounded by cushioning wood chips. The large Kompan Edge play structure is designed to embrace children's instincts to play on every part of a playground by allowing children to safely seek the limits of their own capabilities.

The structure includes climbing walls, a rope bridge, seating spaces, a slide, and many other features that provide for hours of entertainment and exploration. Three pieces of unique spinning equipment complement the main structure: a large rotating net allows children to climb to towering heights, a circular spinner puts a twist on the traditional bench, and a spinning pole provides dizzying fun.

The JCC's Early Childhood Center playground, originally a gift from the Benard L. Maas Foundation and the ECC Parent Committee, was also enhanced by the addition of two innovative new pieces of playground equipment. The Kompan Triple Shifter is a spaceship-shaped structure that combines manipulatives, climbing challenges, and circular openings to give children multiple opportunities to work on balance and coordination while exploring the structure with friends. An Elephant Play rotating net was also installed, which enables children to enjoy group play while challenging themselves to reach to the top of the tree-shaped structure. This net is a smaller version of the rotating net installed in the new elementary playground and will help preschool students transition to new challenges as they enter elementary school.

The JCC Isadore and Claire Bernstein Infant/Toddler playground was also improved with the addition of sod, which was primarily funded by proceeds from the Bernstein Endowment. The JCC now boasts state-of-the-art playgrounds for children of all ages.

The new and enhanced playgrounds were enjoyed by the hundreds of families who participated in the JCC's Apples and Honey celebration in September. Hebrew Day School students and participants in the JCC's afterschool programs have also been putting the equipment to good use. One student summed up the general enthusiasm for the new playground in a letter to the JCC, "Thank you for the new playground. I love it! Not only is it fun, it's good exercise too. My favorite part is the big rotating net." The JCC looks forward to hearing similar reactions from children and families for years to come.

Teen athletes sought for 2009 JCC Maccabi Games

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Each summer the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County sends a team of athletes ages 13–16 to the JCC Maccabi Games, an Olympic-style sporting competition that incorporates community service and social activities into an unforgettable experience for Jewish teens. This past year Ann Arbor's team attended the JCC Maccabi Games hosted by the JCC of Metropolitan Detroit from August 17–22.

Next summer the JCC is planning to take a team 10–12 athletes to the San Francisco JCC Maccabi Games, which will be held Sunday, August 2–Friday, August 7. To enhance the JCC Maccabi experience, the JCC is also planning to bring 2–3 athletes from Ann Arbor's Partnership 2000 region in Israel as part of the Ann Arbor delegation.

The San Francisco Games will offer the following sports: basketball, soccer, baseball, girls volleyball, co-ed flag football, bowling, dance, golf, swimming, table tennis, tennis, and track and field. Ann Arbor's team is tentatively planning to bring a boys' soccer team as well as individual-sport athletes. Interested teens are encouraged to contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or 971-0990 for more information.

OSRUI Summer camp rallies at TBE

Ronnie Simon, special to the WJN

The Reform Movement's camp in Wisconsin, the Olin-Sang Ruby Institute (OSRUI) is located on the shores of beautiful Lac La Belle. OSRUI offers a unique environment for campers in grades 3–12. Creative and innovative Jewish experiences are combined with all the fun of summer camp: sports, swimming, drama, dance, archery, visual arts, horseback riding, photography, campfires, the Alpine Tower, boating, biking, adventure camping, and most important, lifelong friendships.

For first-hand information about OSRUI, all are invited to attend camp rallies at Temple Beth Emeth during religious school hours the weekend of November 1–2. Saturday, November 1 rallies are at 8:35 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. Sunday's rally is at 7:05 p.m. For further information about camp, *visit www.osrui.org* or call (847) 509-0990.

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Young adult fiction book reviews

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

In honor of Jewish Book Month, the students of the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor (HDS) have written the following book reviews of Jewish-themed or Jewish-authored young-adult fiction. The reviewers are all participants in the HDS Newspaper *Chug* (Club) that publishes *The HDS Times*.

Jesse's Star, by Ellen Schwartz

Victoria, Canada: Orca Book Publishers, 2000.

Reviewed by Zachary Bernstein

Jesse's Star, by Ellen Schwartz, is about a kid who has only one day to do a project about his ancestors who lived in Russia in 1890. His only hope is his great-grandfather Yossi's traveling case. In the attic he finds his great-grandfather's traveling case. In it he finds a Jewish star. He holds it for a while, and he magically travels through time to 1890 in Russia. He becomes his great-grandfather and witnesses the fall harvest. When the Czar's soldiers take away the harvest, and the soldiers burn the *siddurim*, the Rebbe tells them to look for ways to escape. Can Yossi find a way to save the villagers, without getting himself killed? Read to find out!

After that book, there is a sequel called *Yossi's Goal*.

The End (A Series of Unfortunate Events, Book 13), by Lemony Snicket

New York: HarperCollins, 2006.

Reviewed by Abigail Hirshbein

The End is a great book by Lemony Snicket. "Lemony Snicket" is Jewish writer Daniel Handler's pen name. It is number 13 in the *Series of Unfortunate Events*. In this book, Violet, Clause, and Sunny Baudelaire are shipwrecked on an island that they know nothing about. As they try not to get in trouble with the leader of the island, or "rock the boat," they also try to keep up their lives of adventure. They meet a girl named Friday, who tells them about what they can and can't do on the island. After a while the leader of the island finds out they have "rocked the boat," and abandons them on a coastal shelf. What will they do? Can they find a way to survive the storms? Read the book to find out!

The Doll with the Yellow Star, by Yona Zeldis McDonough

New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2005.

Reviewed by Miriam Hamermesh

The Doll with the Yellow Star, by Yona Zeldis McDonough, is a book about a girl in the Holocaust named Claudine. She has a large selection of dolls, but on her eighth birthday she gets a new doll, a doll unlike the rest. She decides to name the doll Violette. She makes her clothing and a house, and takes her everywhere. Claudine and her friends, Simone and Odile, go to the park and play with their dolls all the time. But as the war gets more intense, Claudine is forced to wear a yellow star, and later to move to America. Well, she loves Violette dearly; and she decides to give her a star as well. When her parents tell her that she will have to live in America, they also say that she can only take a limited amount of stuff. She decides to take Violette, rather than stuffing her luggage with clothing. But on the boat to America, something happens to Violette. I strongly suggest you read this book, not only because you will find out all about their adventures, but because I thought it was a wonderful book. ■

Sunday Book Festival features children's programs

Tina Gargotta, special to the WJN

Anne-Marie Asner, author of *Klutzy Boy*, will offer an interactive program for young children and their families at the Jewish Community Center Book Festival on Sunday, November 9, at 11 a.m.. Asner is widely known for her series of picture books that incorporate common Yiddish words and phrases into delightful children's stories.

Asner has written for the Jewish Observer, the Jewish Family Life teen website, *MzVibe.com* and the Anti-Defamation League, and her work has been featured on *JewishAustralia.com*. Asner holds a master's degree in Psychology from Brandeis University, where she also taught Sunday school for the Brandeis Jewish Education Program. She is one of five grandchildren to her Yiddish-speaking *bubbe*.

This event is sponsored by The PJ Library, The JCC Early Childhood Center, and The Benard L. Maas Foundation.

Cambria Gordon, author of *The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming* will present an informative and fun program for children ages 4–11 at the Book Festival on Sunday, November 16 at 11 a.m. Participants will learn facts about the environment, the science behind global warming, and easy ways to help out at home, school, and in the community.

Gordon is an award-winning former advertising copywriter who now pursues children's writing full-time. Her credits include a nonfiction book, *Fifty Nifty Crafts to Make With Things Around the House*, and an episode for the award-winning animated Disney Channel series *Madeline*.

This event is sponsored by the Hebrew Day School and The Benard L. Maas Foundation.

A free pizza lunch will be served at both events. For more information, contact the Jewish Community Center at 971-0990.

Campbell's Labels Program awards free educational merchandise

Lisa Brown, special to the WJN

For over 30 years, Campbell's Labels for Education program has awarded over $100 million in FREE merchandise to schools nationwide. And this year, America's longest running education program of its kind just got better with a new list of 5-point products, including all V8® soups and Campbell's® Select Harvest™ soups. To kick-off this year's collection drive, JCC Early Childhood Center is asking parents, teachers, and friends in the community to collect Campbell product proofs of purchase that can be redeemed for free educational merchandise. For a complete list of products and point values please visit *www.labelsforeducation.com.*

You can help JCC Early Childhood Center earn free merchandise such as computers, audio/visual equipment, physical education equipment, reference books, musical instruments, toys or even a mini-van, simply by collecting Campbell product proofs of purchase and forwarding them to JCC Early Childhood Center.

"This year our goal is to collect 2,500 points, so we're asking the community to help," said Lisa Brown, coordinator for JCC Early Childhood Center's Labels for Education program. "If we work together, we can build better schools for our children."

It's easy to pitch in. Simply save product proofs of purchase from any of the following eligible Campbell products and send them to JCC Early Childhood Center:

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- Swanson® broths and canned poultry
- V8® vegetable juices
- V8 Splash® juice drinks
- V8® soups
- Campbell's® tomato juice
- Pepperidge Farm® breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products
- Pepperidge Farm® Goldfish® crackers
- Campbell's Foodservice products

For more information on how to be a part of JCC Early Childhood Center's Labels for Education collection drive, contact the school coordinator, Lisa Brown, at 971-0990.

The 2008–2009 program runs until June 1, 2009.

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Pro-Obama 'Schlep' to Florida puts focus on Jewish seniors, question of race

By Ben Harris

BOCA RATON, Fla. (JTA) — Fred Wolff is pretty explicit in laying out the reason why he won't support Barack Obama on November 4.

A survivor of the Dachau concentration camp who came to the United States as a teenager, Wolff told JTA he typically favors Republican candidates. This year he would have preferred former governors Mike Huckabee of Arkansas or Mitt Romney of Massachusetts.

But despite his misgivings about John McCain, the Republican nominee, Wolff said there's one reason he would never consider supporting Obama.

"I think that many of the blacks — I was going to say *shvartzes*, but I'll say blacks — many of the blacks are anti-Semitic," Wolff said. "I'm not going to vote for the black guy. No, never. I don't want him. I don't like the crowd that surrounds him. They may be quiet right now, and they may be even hiding in the bushes. But you wait, if he wins, they're going to come out."

While Obama has labored for months to beat back false claims that he is a Muslim and soft on Israel, the talk as the election heads into its final weeks has focused on the one aspect of the Democrat's biography he is powerless to change: his skin color. And with polls showing Obama lagging in Jewish support behind earlier Democratic presidential candidates, concern among some of his supporters has grown that older Jewish voters, clustered in critical swing states and besieged by advertising stoking concerns about his position on Jewish issues, could tip the balance to McCain.

It was precisely this worry that led a new pro-Obama group, *JewsVote.org,* to urge young Jews to visit Florida over Columbus Day weekend to lobby their grandparents on Obama's behalf. The effort, known as "The Great Schlep," received a huge boost last month from foul-mouthed comedian Sarah Silverman, who appeared in an Internet video touting the *Schlep* that has been viewed more than 7 million times.

Following in the footsteps of Jon Stewart's "*The Daily Show*" and several coventional media outlets, Silverman painted older Jewish Floridians as balking at backing Obama because of his race. The data suggest that such concerns might be overblown. A recent survey by the American Jewish Committee found that Obama's support was greater among older Jews than younger ones, a finding that some observers have said is too unbelievable to be true. On the ground in Florida, many grandparents of "schleppers" told JTA that they were leaning toward the Democratic candidate anyway, even before their grandchildren paid them an unexpected — if highly appreciated — visit.

"I think that elders are getting a bad rap with the assumption that they are going to allow racism to cloud their judgment about what really is the best choice for our country and our interest in being advocates for Israel and the Jewish people," said Rabbi Dayle Friedman, who directs a center for Jewish aging at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia and is a vice chair of Rabbis for Obama. "My experience with elders is that they are far more open minded than people give them credit for."

Several surveys of American Jews have shown Obama hovering at around 60 percent, about 10 points below where John Kerry was polling at a similar point in the presidential race four years ago.

"Over the years, there's been some slippage in the numbers in terms of support for the Democrats," said Ari Wallach, the co-founder of JewsVote and its parent organization, the Jewish Council for Education and Research.

The Great Schlep is "a way of ensuring that that does not continue, not only down here in Florida but across the country," he said.

The Obama campaign, which drew a small army of Jewish volunteers to Florida thanks to the Silverman video, dismissed the sluggish poll numbers and expressed confidence that Obama would top Kerry's figure of 76 percent of Jewish support.

"We don't have a Jewish problem, the Republicans have an election problem," Halie Soifer, the campaign's Jewish vote director in Florida, told a group of Jewish volunteers from across the country on October 10.

Soifer said McCain's dip in the polls is giving Republicans nightmares, prompting them to hurl every slur imaginable in an effort to reverse the decline. And while she acknowledged that race may play a role in the minds of the Jewish voters she has targeted, insinuations about Obama's background are being heard less and less.

"We are seeing a surge in support," Soifer said. "I go to condos where I used to go a few months ago. And there was skepticism at that time. They didn't know enough about Senator Obama. And now people just want to know how they can help."

Among those former skeptics are Kenny and Selma Furst, lifelong Democrats and residents of one of the mythic "condos" and retirement communities that dot the South Florida landscape. Selma Furst had heard all the rumors about Obama's religion and his stance on Israel, but there was one thing that really made her uncomfortable. "If I may say the color wasn't what I really wanted," said Selma Furst. "And I just thought that no, I don't think he's going to be good. And I wasn't too crazy about his wife."

The Fursts' grandchildren are fervent Obama supporters, and through e-mails and phone calls they were eventually able to sway their grandparents. So much so that Furst organized a Sunday afternoon meeting at their retirement community in Tamarac so their grandson, schlepper Mike Bender from Los Angeles, could address their friends.

By the end of Bender's October 12 speech, the 100 or so elderly voters were chanting "Yes, we can," the unofficial slogan of the Obama campaign. But even before hearing Bender's pitch, the bulk of the crowd appeared to be solidly backing Obama. Several said that if Jewish voters had any fears about Obama, they were trumped by concerns about McCain's choice of running mate, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin.

"I wouldn't vote for Sarah Palin if I didn't vote at all," said Estelle Zucker, a resident of Kings Point in Tamarac. "I think McCain made a big mistake by taking her."

A lifelong Democrat, Zucker confessed to being on the fence in this election for the first time in her life. Obama's "friends," Zucker said, are anti-Semitic. She also worries about his position on Iran and Israel.

"That's why I can't go full-heartedly into this election, but I definitely will not vote for McCain," Zucker said. "I don't like Sarah Palin. She could be very nice — I like nice ladies — but I don't like what she stands for." ■

Community Photo Album

Shabbat in the Park

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor kicked off the year with their annual Shabbat in the Park. Each summer for the past eight years, the Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division has set aside one night for a Shabbat experience different from the rest. On Friday, September 5, over 150 people gathered at Burns Park, blankets in hand, for a laid-back night with Shabbat songs and a catered picnic dinner.

1 - YAD members enjoy a break in the weather at Shabbat in the Park
2 - YAD welcomed Rabbi Kim Blumenthal and her husband, Ira Horowitz, to the community at Shabbat in the Park
3 - The Basch Family at Shabbat in the Park

Major Gifts Event

Over 70 people attended the 2008 Major Gifts Event hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. The Wine Tasting, held at Vinology Restaurant on September 23, was a tremendous success and helped build positive vibes for the 2009 Annual Campaign. "This was a unique and different way to commence the 2009 Annual Campaign. The energy and commitment of the participants was palatable," said Susan Fisher, Federation president. Sommelier Michael Bushey combined with the cache of Vinology restaurant provided an excellent environment in which to savor the true quality of kosher wines available.

4 – Prue Rosenthal and Nancy Zimmerman
5 – Roberta Tankanow and Shelly Kovacs-Berman
6 – Joanne and Larry Smith and Bruce Friedman
7 – Carole Rycus, Joan Lowenstein, Nancy Margolis
8 – Geri Markel, Barbara Stark-Nemon, and Sheldon Markel

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Twenty-first Annual Jewish Book Festival to host Local Author Fair and Brunch

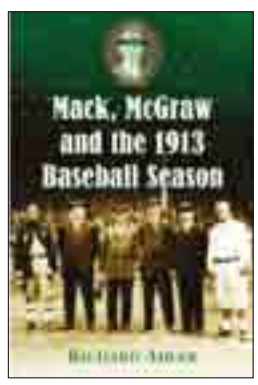
Event celebrates community's creativity

Karen Kohn, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival will host a local author's brunch on Sunday, November 16 at 10 a.m. The Local Author's Fair and Brunch offers the opportunity to hear about new books from authors living in the Ann Arbor area. Each author will discuss his or her book and answer questions. A complimentary light brunch will be served. The event is sponsored by Huron River Press and there is no charge to attend.

Rich Adler

Few baseball franchises in the dead-ball era, the years between the 1900 and 1919, won as consistently or often as the New York Giants and Philadelphia Athletics. Between them, the teams claimed 12 pennants and finished second place or higher 22 times. The steady success also earned managers John McGraw and Connie Mack their reputations. It was history in the making, then, when the two Hall of Famers led their clubs into the 1913 World Series, the third and final time they went head-to-head for the world championship. In his new book, *Mack, McGraw and the 1913 Baseball Season*, author Rich Adler provides a carefully researched account of the season-long dominance of the Giants and As, the narrative building toward a dramatic collision in the Fall Classic.



Richard Adler is a professor of microbiology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He and his wife Sara Jane (Sally) have raised four children: Rebekah, Steven, Ruth, and Rose. The Adler family are members at Beth Israel Congregation. Adler previously authored *Baseball at the University of Michigan* and *Jewish Ann Arbor* with daughter Ruth as co-author.

Danit Brown

When eleven-year-old Osnat Greenberg and her parents move to Michigan from Tel Aviv, they arrive in a place that feels too quiet, too damp, and too big. Kids are taken aback by Osnat's origins—"You lived in Israel? Weren't you scared?"—and make fun of her name: "Why are you named after mucus?"

Danit Brown

Ask for a Convertible, Danit Brown's absorbing book of connected stories, revolves around a 15-year period in the life of lonely, restless Osnat and a select few in her orbit, mostly Israelis who feel the pull of another place no matter where they settle. Brown is wonderfully attuned to what's special and strange about this particular pool of immigrants, but she's careful to neither valorize where they come from nor paint their fraught relationships with their home and adopted countries as entirely unique.

Danit Brown holds an MFA in fiction from Indiana University. Her stories have appeared in many literary journals, including *Story, Glimmer Train, Story Quarterly,* and *One Story*. Brown lives in Ann Arbor with her family.

Yaron Eliav

Public sculptures were the mass media of the Roman world. They populated urban centers throughout the empire communicating political, religious, and social messages. In his book *The Sculptural Environment of the Roman Near East: Reflections on Culture, Ideology, and Power*, Yaron Eliav draws on Talmudic, early Christian and classic literatures, as well as on archaeology, to study the multi-faceted cultural environment of Roman Palestine with emphasis on the encounter between Jews and Greco-Roman culture. Utilizing the full spectrum of ancient sources, the book examines the multiple, at times even contradictory, meanings and functions that statues served within the complex world of the Roman Near East. Moreover, it situates the discussion of sculpture in the broader context of antiquity in order to reevaluate long-held scholarly consensuses on such ideas as the essence of Hellenism and the everlasting conflict among paganism, Christianity, and Judaism.

Yaron Eliav

Yaron Eliav is a Frankel Associate Professor of Rabbinic Literature and Late Antique Jewish Culture at the University of Michigan. His book *God's Mountain: The Temple Mount in Time, Space, and Memory* won the Theology and Religious Studies award by the Association of American Publishers, and won the 2006 Salo Baron Prize for the Best First Book in Judaic Studies from the American Academy of Jewish Research.

Joy Gaines-Friedler

In her first full-length book of poetry, *Like Vapor*, Joy Gaines-Friedler transcends the individual and the commonplace with poems that are narrative and lyrical. Gaines-Friedler's imagery and music show her tenderness and compassion. She writes truths of human experience: a pheasant crossing the highway, the house around the corner, a friend dying of AIDS. In these experiences readers are assured of humanity, their existence and eventual extinction, with a grace and comfort that uplifts the spirit and encourages a consideration of life.

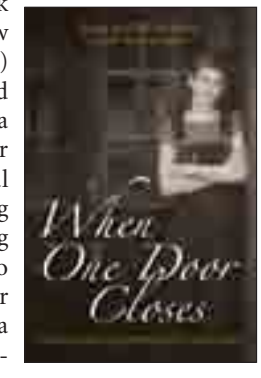
Joy Gaines-Friedler lives in Farmington Hills with her husband Moti. After twenty years as a professional photographer, Gaines-Friedler graduated with honors from Oakland University. Her work has been widely published in literary journals and has won numerous awards. Gaines-Friedler works with students in the Academic Literacy Program at Oakland Community College and teaches creative writing workshops. She is currently earning her MFA in poetry at Ashland University in Ohio.

Joy Gaines-Friedler

Susie and Bill Graham

Alex Graham was an energetic teenager and epitome of health. Amazingly, she never contracted the typical childhood illnesses, but in 1997 all that was to change. One early fall day Alex came home from the mall complaining of pain in her knee. Three months later, at the age of 16, she was diagnosed with bone cancer. Her world and the world of those she loved would never be the same. Over the course of the next year, Alex did not get the miracle she wanted most, but her life and her selfless wish left the world a better place.

When One Door Closes: A Teen's Inspiring Journey and Living Legacy shows us the powerful influence one person can unleash in the face of tragedy. A teenage girl fighting osteogenic sarcoma, struggling with the amputation of her leg and partial loss of a lung, defines herself by who she is and the choices she makes, not by her illness. In their own words, family, friends, medical experts, caregivers, and a rock star tell us how Alexandra (Alex) Graham opened doors and made a difference in their lives. This factual account will bring understanding and perspective to those directly or indirectly facing a life-threatening illness, particularly in cases where the patient is a teenager.



Susie and Bill Graham were born and raised in Michigan. They met while attending Eastern Michigan University, and recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Susie and Bill have three children, David, Robbie, and Alexandra. Bill recently retired from his computer leasing company and Susie from her stationery and card shop. Both are very active in volunteer and fundraising work to benefit charitable organizations. The Grahams live in West Bloomfield.

Robert A. Green, M.D.

Is it possible to write a memoir of your life's mistakes and feel good about it? Well, yes and no. As Dr. Robert Green recounts his years in the medical care and treatment of countless patients, he describes those times there was an error in his judgment in diagnosis and treatment and the importance of the lessons learned when something went differently than he expected. In his book *A Journey Through Medicine: A Doctor's Lessons from his Patients Reflecting Medical Practice During the Mid and Late Twentieth Century*, Dr. Green takes readers on a journey through his medical career, introducing them to the patients whose lives he became a part of, and the relationships he forged that made them memorable.

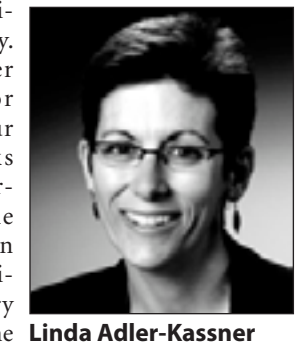
Robert A. Green was born in Brooklyn, New York, and attended Harvard College and University of Illinois Medical School. He began his career in charge of a tuberculosis sanatorium under the US Bureau of Indian Affairs. He came to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1958, and retired as professor emeritus in 1995. He specialized in internal medicine with a subspecialty in pulmonary disease. Dr. Green served as associate dean of the Medical School in the 1960s and 1970s. He also served on many university committees, including as chair of the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs. Dr. Green and his late wife Lila had five children and were longtime members of Beth Israel Congregation

Robert A. Green, M.D.

Linda Adler-Kassner

A professor of English and director of First-Year Writing at Eastern Michigan University, Linda Adler-Kassner's job title in the field of composition and rhetoric is Writing Program Administrator, or WPA. Her latest book, *The Activist WPA: Changing Stories about Writers and Writing*, focuses in part on strategies for faculty like her, who run college and university writing programs, to shape conversations about writing and writers. These strategies start, she argues, with personal principles—in her case, principles drawn from Judaism, such as the concept of *tikkun olam*, to help mend the world. This book explores how people can identify those principles and then build on them toward action by adapting strategies from community organizers and media strategists.

Linda Adler-Kassner earned her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. She has been a professor of composition at both the University of Michigan at Dearborn and Eastern Michigan University. Adler-Kassner is author or editor of four other books and many articles and she has served on numerous university advisory committees.She is a long-time member and former board member of the Jewish Cultural Society.


Linda Adler-Kassner

Julian Levinson

How have Jews reshaped their identities as Jews in the face of the radical newness called America? In his book *Exiles on Main Street: Jewish American Writers and American Literary Culture*, Julian Levinson explores the ways in which exposure to American literary culture—in particular the visionary tradition identified with Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman—led American Jewish writers to a new understanding of themselves as Jews. Discussing the lives and work of writers such as Emma Lazarus, Mary Antin, Ludwig Lewisohn, Waldo Frank, Anzia Yezierska, I.J. Schwartz, Alfred Kazin, and Irving Howe, Levinson concludes that their interaction with American culture led them to improvise new and meaningful ways of being Jewish. In contrast to the often expressed view that the Diaspora experience leads to assimilation, *Exiles on Main Street* traces an arc of return to Jewish identification and describes a vital and creative Jewish American literary culture.

Julian Levinson

Julian Levinson is the Samuel Shetzer associate professor of American Jewish Studies and English at the University of Michigan. He researches a range of subjects, including modern Jewish literatures, translation theory, religion and literature, and postwar American literature and culture. Levinson received his Ph.D. at Columbia University after studying at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Jewish Theological Seminary, and Swarthmore College. He has used his fluency in multiple languages—including Hebrew, Yiddish, German, French, and Spanish—as a means of exploring works by Jewish authors in numerous places and times. Levinson lives in Ann Arbor.

Deborah Dash Moore

American Jewish Identity Politics is a collection of essays that explores changes among American Jews in their self-understanding during the last half of the 20th century. Written by scholars who grew up after World War II and the Holocaust, who participated in political struggles in the 1960s and 1970s, and who articulated many of the formative concepts of modern Jewish studies, this anthology provides a window into an era of social change. These men and women are among the leading scholars of Jewish history, society and culture.

Deborah Dash Moore

The essays reflect several layers of identity politics. On one level, they interrogate the recent past of American Jews, starting with their experiences of World War II. Without the flourishing of identity politics and the white ethnic revival, many questions about American Jewish history might never have been explored. Those who adopted identity politics often saw Jews as an ethnic group in the United States, one connected both to other Americans and to Jews throughout the world and in the past. On another level, these essays express ideas nourished in universities during the turbulent 1970s and 1980s. Those years marked the expansion of Jewish studies as a field in the United States and the establishment of American Jewish studies as an area of specialization. Taken together they reveal the varied sources of American Jewish studies.

Deborah Dash Moore is the director of the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and a Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History, both at the University of Michigan. Dash Moore is a leading authority of American Jewish experience, American religion, and modern Jewish history. The author or editor of numerous volumes, Dash Moore has received the Saul Viener Prize for Best Book in American Jewish History and the National Jewish Book Award for best book in Women's Studies.

Annie Lubliner Lehmann

Having severe autism does not stop Annie Lubliner Lehmann's son, Jonah, from teaching her some of life's most valuable lessons. Her debut book, *The Accidental Teacher: Life Lessons from my Silent Son*, is a heartfelt memoir about self-discovery, rather than illness, and uses insight and humor to weave a tale rich with kitchen-table wisdom. Lehmann offers to fellow parents the book she could never find in her early days of learning about autism. *The Accidental Teacher* is written from the frontlines by a mother and a soldier to help others navigate the day-to-day experiences, which Lehmann describes as an "emotional journey, which often felt like a dizzying roller-coaster ride." This book is a must-read for anyone who has been personally touched by a major life challenge.

Annie Lubliner Lehmann

Annie Lehmann, a freelance writer for more than 25 years, has published articles in many newspapers and magazines, including *The New York Times, Detroit Free Press,* and *Detroit News*. Lehmann is originally from New York and has called West Bloomfield home for the past 23 years. She is married to Michael H. Lehmann, clinical professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan, and is the mother of three children.

Anita Norich

Jewish Literatures and Cultures—Context and Intertext, co-edited by Anita Norich and Yaron Eliav, is a collection of essays, most of which emerged from a conference held at the University of Michigan's Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. These essays examine the ways in which Jewish culture has existed in a mutually enriching, if sometimes problematic, relationship with surrounding non-Jewish cultures. Leading scholars in Judaic studies take up broad methodological concerns and specific case studies illustrating Jewish embeddedness in other cultures, and reexamining the famous "textuality" of the Jews, expanding the notion of "text" to include other works of art, both material and spiritual.

Anita Norich

Anita Norich is professor of English and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. An authority of Yiddish literature, Norich is interested in Jewish literature, Holocaust literature, and American literature. She came to Michigan in 1983 after receiving her Ph.D. from Columbia University and serving as a Lady Davis postdoctoral fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. At Michigan she received an Amoco award for excellence in teaching as well as several teaching and faculty recognition awards.

Welcome to the Jewniverse

Tina Gargotta, special to the WJN

The University of Michigan Hillel and YAD, the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, are coming together to sponsor a night at the Jewish Community Center's Jewish Book Festival, featuring Lisa Alcalay Klug, author of *Cool Jew: The Ultimate Guide for Every Member of the Tribe*, on November 16 at 7 p.m. at U-M Hillel (1429 Hill St.).

Lisa Alcalay Klug

Imagine an updated combination of the beloved *Jewish Catalog* meets *The Joys of Yiddish* with a hip-hop spin that captures the spirit of the times. *Cool Jew* does for matzo balls and gefilte fish what *The Official Preppy Handbook* did for plaid and polo, only with much more *chutzpah*.

A field manual for 21st-century Jews and the people who love them, *Cool Jew* decodes contemporary Judaism and its hippest forms of cultural expression, covering everything from identity, rituals, clothing, and cuisine, to holidays, spirituality, diversity, and language. It combines original illustrations by artist Amos Goldbaum with historical images, album covers, Kabbalistic paintings, pop Judaica, and more.

Cool Jew also features resourceful back-of-the-book material, including "People of Da Book" (authoritative texts on Jewish concepts and culture), the "Heebster Jewke Box" (tunes that rock the Heebster vibe), and the "Tribe Online" (an extensive listing of Jewish Web resources).

Packed with sites, tunes, eats, and treats, it's the perfect gift for the high holidays, bar and bat mitzvahs, Chanukah, Purim, or any time of year to get your groove on and discover new meaning in the old adage, "When you're in love, the whole world is Jewish!"

Lisa Alcalay Klug has written for many publications, including the *New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, Jewish Living, Hadassah, Forward*, and more. She advises Schmooze: the Jewish Culture Conference, teaches at the Jewlicious Festivals, and judges the Simply Manischewitz Cook Off. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of UC Berkeley with a masters degree in journalism. She is the daughter of an Ashkenazi Holocaust survivor and a descendant of a Sephardic rabbinic family. For more information, visit *www.CoolJewBook.com* or call the JCC at 971-0990.

Author Irina Reyn reimagines a Tolstoy classic

Halye Aisner, special to the WJN

What Happened to Anna K author Irina Reyn will discuss her debut novel on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, as part of the 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival. The talk is free and open to the public.

Irina Reyn

Vivacious thirty-seven-year-old Anna K. is comfortably married to Alex, an older, prominent businessman from her tight-knit Russian-Jewish immigrant community in Queens. But a longing for freedom is reignited in this bookish, overly romantic, and imperious woman when she meets her cousin Katia Zavurov's boyfriend, an outsider and aspiring young writer on whom she pins her hopes for escape. As they begin a reckless affair, Anna enters into a tailspin that alienates her from her husband, family, and entire world.

In nearby Rego Park's Bukharian-Jewish community, twenty-seven-year-old pharmacist Lev Gavrilov harbors two secret passions: French movies and the lovely Katia. Lev's restless longing to test the boundaries of his sheltered life powerfully collides with Anna's. But will Lev's quest result in life's affirmation rather than its destruction?

Exploring struggles of identity, fidelity, and community, *What Happened to Anna K.* is a remarkable retelling of Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina,* brought vividly to life by an exciting young writer.

Irina Reyn's novel has received much critical acclaim. Her work has appeared in *Nextbook*, *the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle,* and *Town & Country Travel*. A graduate of Bennington College's MFA program, she is an assistant professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh. Reyn was born in Moscow and now divides her time between Pittsburgh and Brooklyn.

This event is sponsored by Bobbie and Myron Levine. For more information, or to RSVP, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

Jewish Book Festival continues on page 21

With Jerusalem on the precipice, mayoral election seen as crucial

By Dina Kraft

JERUSALEM (JTA) — It sounds like the beginning of a joke: A rabbi, a Russian oligarch, and a high-tech millionaire are running for mayor of Jerusalem.

Except there's no punch line, just each of them offering up himself as salvation for the hallowed capital's many troubles.

Many Jerusalemites view this year's municipal elections, scheduled for November 11, as a historic turning point for a city that is Israel's poorest, still vulnerable to terrorist attacks, and wracked by economic, political and religious divisions. At stake, many say, is Jerusalem's very character and future viability.

The election is "likely to be the most crucial local ballot ever held in the modern history of the capital," Calev Ben-David, a *Jerusalem Post* columnist and longtime Jerusalemite, wrote recently.

Among the foremost concerns for Jewish Israelis is the hemorrhaging of Jerusalem's Jewish population, particularly its middle class. These Israelis are being driven out of the city by high housing costs and scarce employment opportunities.

For secular residents, the growth of Jerusalem's fervently Orthodox population is further cause for concern that the Orthodox will dominate the personality and priorities of the city.

In the predominately Arab eastern half, where most residents long have refused to vote in municipal elections in protest of Israel's sovereignty over the city, basic social services have been neglected for years by City Hall. Many families live in cramped quarters because building permits are difficult to acquire, classroom shortages are so bad that at some schools different grades take turns using the same room, and road repair and garbage collection are routinely ignored.

Some observers argue that the neglect of eastern Jerusalem ensures that the capital may again be divided by an international border. Within the city's Arab community, many warn that the gap in services leads to resentment that can be seen in the growing political and religious radicalization of Arab youth. Several times this year, relatively young Palestinians from eastern Jerusalem perpetrated terrorist attacks against Jews in Jerusalem, sometimes with deadly results.

Elias Khoury, a lawyer who represents Arab residents of Jerusalem on issues of property, building and residency rights, says the boycott of municipal elections by Jerusalem Arabs only hurts the community.

"Today the situation in East Jerusalem is *tohu va'vohu*," he said, using the biblical term for chaos. "If we don't participate in elections, we need an alternative to managing our lives."

The youngest of the three candidates is Nir Barkat, 49, a City Council member who made his fortune developing pioneering anti-virus software in the 1990s. A secular Jerusalemite, Barkat advocates reviving the city and its economy by focusing on tourism and making Jerusalem a world-class center for medicine and life sciences.

The Orthodox candidate is Rabbi Meir Porush, a seventh-generation Jerusalemite and longtime fixture on Israel's Orthodox political scene who officially joined the race at the last minute.

The current mayor, Uri Lupolianski, who is fervently Orthodox, had agreed to step aside for another Orthodox candidate, but it took the fervently Orthodox political establishment until the 11th hour to settle on a final candidate. Several names were floated, but Porush became the man of choice only after disgraced ex-Shas Party chairman and Knesset member Aryeh Deri, who spent time in prison for taking bribes, was disqualified from running because his crimes constituted acts of moral turpitude.

Porush, who advocates holding the federal government accountable on unfulfilled pledges to invest millions of dollars in Jerusalem, hopes to win the mayoralty by galvanizing the city's powerful fervently Orthodox voting bloc. Orthodox residents make up 30 percent of the city's Jewish population but comprised the majority of voters in the city's last municipal election, helping usher in Lupoliansky, the city's first Orthodox mayor, in 2003.

Porush cites Jerusalem's Arab-Jewish demography as the city's greatest challenge. He told JTA the first thing he would do as mayor would be to declare "an emergency situation" to boost the city's Jewish population, which stands at about 66 percent. "If this problem is not dealt with we will lose Jerusalem," Porush said.

Rounding out the field is Arcady Gaydamak, Israel's flashiest political enigma, a billionaire who says he speaks for the people. Gaydamak's past includes an international arrest warrant for allegedly illicit arms dealing in Angola and paying out of his own pocket to house Israelis fleeing the rocket fire in the North during the 2006 Lebanon war.

Zuhir Hamdan, who briefly ran as Jerusalem's first Arab mayoral candidate, recently joined Gaydamak's campaign in the hope of becoming his adviser on Arab affairs if Gaydamak is elected.

On a recent campaign foray to Jerusalem's open-air Mahane Yehudah market, Barkat shook hands and smiled for the cameras in his charcoal gray suit and Oxford shirt.

"My goal and mission in life is to build the future of Jerusalem," he told a gathering of foreign journalists before outlining his plans, which include tapping international philanthropists and private-sector funds for support for Jerusalem.

Addressing the poverty issue, he noted that the average Jewish income in Jerusalem is $16,000 annually compared to $24,000 in the Tel Aviv area—and just $4,000 among Arab residents of eastern Jerusalem.

All of the candidates are trying to woo voters on the issue of affordable housing. Foreign demand for property in Jerusalem has contributed to skyrocketing housing of prices and a dearth of new middle-class housing. Most of the city's current building projects are luxury housing for Diaspora Jewish buyers, with prices per meter ranging from $7,000 to $10,000.

The high cost of living in Jerusalem has driven many residents to the suburbs.

Two new parties comprised of young Jerusalemites have made the issue their focus in the race for City Council seats. Aimed at trying to stem the tide of young people fleeing the city, one party is made up predominately of university students and other 20-somethings and is called *Hit'orerut*—Hebrew for "wake up." Earlier this month it merged with the other like-minded party, *Yerushalmim*—Hebrew for "Jerusalemites."

"We need a change, and we understood it had to come from within," said Ofir Berkovitz, 25, the head of Hit'orerut.

Party leaders helped organize a demonstration several months ago in which activists piled suitcases on their cars and drove to the city's entrance with megaphones blaring, "Don't leave us with no choice but to leave!" ■

Radical Israeli settlers break a taboo: violence against Jews

By Dina Kraft

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Marking the close of the Fast of Gedaliah, a mournful day that commemorates the biblical-era political assassination of a Jew by another Jew, some 200 religious and secular Israelis assembled outside the Jerusalem home of Professor Ze'ev Sternhell with a blunt message: *No More Gedaliahs.*

Or, bringing it into the modern age, as Sternhell put it, "We do not want another Yitzhak Rabin," referring to the 1995 assassination of the prime minister.

On September 25, the Hebrew University professor, Holocaust survivor, Israel Prize winner and outspoken peace activist was the target of a pipe bomb attack suspected to have been carried out by right-wing Jewish extremists.

"Our society has a problem and we must confront it," Sternhell said.

The attack on Sternhell appears to be part of a violent shift in strategy among the more radical elements of the Jewish settler movement. Jewish assaults on both Palestinians and Israeli soldiers in the West Bank have seen a rise of late. The incidents often seem more like planned operations than spontaneous actions, experts say.

The settlers seem to be sending a message to Israeli authorities: Any operation against the settlers — specifically, any attempted evacuation of illegal outposts in the West Bank — will elicit a new type of response that is harsh and difficult to control.

"The army and the government need to know that every stone thrown at us, any action against our settlements, will not be met with as if we are suckers," Avri Ran, a prominent figure among the more hard-core settlers, told JTA. "There is a price to be paid for attacks on Jews."

The strategy shift can be traced to the lessons settlers learned from the experience of the Gaza Strip in 2005, when opponents of the withdrawal and residents of Gaza's Jewish settlement bloc mostly played by the rules. They practiced passive disobedience but eschewed violence as Israeli authorities came to remove them.

But the failure of their quest to thwart Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, as well as the government's response, left them angry and disillusioned, particularly the younger generation.

Their sense of betrayal, coupled with a view of the Jerusalem government as corrupt, has fueled an anti-authority sentiment. This has been most apparent among the so-called hilltop youth — radical young settlers who establish and occupy illegal outposts atop hills in the West Bank and refuse to leave.

The price radical settlers have sought to impose on those seeking to evict them includes setting fire to Palestinian fields and orchards, blocking roads and even fighting with Israeli soldiers. Settlers unleased a dog on one officer; another soldier had his arm broken in recent confrontations. Most dramatically, settlers attacked a Palestinian village in an incident Prime Minister Ehud Olmert described as a pogrom.

The attack, in the West Bank village of Asira al Qibliya, followed the infiltration of a Palestinian into the nearby settlement of Yitzhar, in the northern West Bank, where an empty house was set on fire and a 9-year-old Jewish boy was stabbed. In response, Yitzhar residents tore through the village, throwing rocks and opening fire, leaving several Palestinians wounded.

Using unusually strong language, Olmert responded to the recent wave of violence, including the attack on Sternhell, at a Cabinet meeting.

"An evil wind of extremism, of hatred, of malice, of violence, of running amok, of breaking the law, of contempt for the institutions of the state, is blowing through certain sections of the Israeli public and threatens Israeli democracy," he said.

The settlers' actions also threaten the Israeli government's ability to carry out pledges that are part of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, including commitments made to the United States and the international community to freeze settlement building and remove illegal outposts from the West Bank.

Yizhar Be'er, the executive director of Keshev, an organization that researches ideological violence in Israel, described the recent events as a Jewish *intifada*, using the Arabic word for uprising. He said it borrows directly from the Israeli government's own playbook for quashing the second Palestinian *intifada.*

Specifically, fringe settlers are employing the deterrent doctrine sometimes used by Israel known as the "price tag": Every aggressive act will be met by an even more aggressive and painful response.

"This is the irony of history, that the approach of the Israeli government against the Palestinians was adopted by the settlers to fight democracy," Be'er said.

Thus, even if a single trailer is threatened with removal from a settlement, "hell will be raised," Be'er said. That may mean fighting against the Israeli army — until now considered taboo — or fanning out to Palestinian villages to start disturbances and thereby overwhelm army and police personnel.

"In the past, only a few dozen individuals were implicated" in such behavior, Maj. Gen. Gadi Shadmi, the head of the Israel Defense Forces' Central Command, told Israel's daily Ha'aretz in a recent interview.

While most of the estimated 250,000 Israeli Jews living in the West Bank are law abiding, Shadmi said, the ranks of the radicals are growing.

"Today we are talking about several hundred people — a very significant change," he said.

"These people are conspiring against the Palestinians and against security forces," he added, making the army's job more difficult. Shadmi charged that some segments of the set-

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News correspondent Martin Fletcher

Martin Fletcher

Martin Fletcher, NBC news bureau chief in Tel Aviv and author of *Breaking News*, will discuss his book at noon on Tuesday, November 11, as part of the Lunch and Learn series of the 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival. The cost for lunch is $10. The talk is free and open to the public. Martin Fletcher has covered almost every conflict and natural disaster in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, winning five Emmies, a Columbia University Dupont Award, several Overseas Press Club awards. *Breaking News* offers a vivid account of Fletcher's 30-year career as a war correspondent. With humor and elegance, Fletcher describes his growth from clueless adventurer to grizzled veteran of the world's battlefields. While documenting his adventures, Fletcher also gives a riveting portrayal of the suffering around him and of the macho adrenaline junkies who make up his profession. Fletcher has a clear understanding of the ambiguities of his position as a purveyor of misery and death. Fletcher's engagement with his own family's suffering in the Holocaust adds complexity to a narrative that is both fast-paced and moving.

This event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. For more information or to RSVP, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

Learn to use Yiddish with author Michael Wex

Michael Wex

The author of the bestselling book, *Born to Kvetch*, and the follow-up phrasebook, *Just Say Nu*, Michael Wex will be the featured author on Monday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m., a part of the 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival. The talk is free and open to the public.

In *Born to Kvetch*, author Michael Wex led readers on a hilariously enlightening excursion through Yiddish culture and history. With *Just Say Nu*, he shows us how to use this remarkable language to spice up conversations, stories, presentations, and arguments when plain English will not suffice (including, of course, lots of delightful historical and cultural side trips along the way).

Michael Wex is a novelist, professor, translator, lecturer, and performer. He is a leading figure in the current Yiddish revival, lecturing widely on Yiddish and Jewish culture. He lives in Toronto.

This event is sponsored by Carolyn and Larry Hiss and the Yiddish Open House. For more information or to RSVP, contact the JCC at 971-0990.

Columnist Jeffrey Zaslow to speak at Festival

Jeffrey Zaslow

Jeffrey Zaslow, columnist for the Wall Street Journal, will speak at the 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival on November 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Jeffrey Zaslow's column, "Moving On," focuses on life transitions and often attracts wide media interest. That was certainly the case in September 2007, after Zaslow attended the final lecture of Carnegie Mellon professor Randy Pausch. Zaslow heard Pausch tell the audience about the cancer that was devouring his pancreas and liver, and that would claim his life in a matter of months. But the lecture he gave wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment. It was a summation of everything Pausch had come to believe. It was about living. Zaslow's column about the talk sparked a worldwide phenomenon. Tens of millions of people have since viewed footage of the lecture on the Internet and on TV.

This event will be preceded by a Book Festival Sponsors cocktail reception and dinner at 6 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Jewish Cultural Society. For more information, please contact the Jewish Community Center at 991-0990.

JFS event with Sex and the City star, Evan Handler

Evan Handler

Jewish Family Services will host a special Lunch and Learn event at noon on Friday, November 14, welcoming Evan Handler to the 21st Annual Jewish Book Festival.

It's Only Temporary: The Good News and the Bad News of Being Alive is Handler's funny, deeply moving account of his struggle to come back to life and embrace it fully after almost losing it; the grudging acceptance of middle age by someone who wasn't even supposed to make it out of his twenties; and the transformation of a classic specimen of the man who can't commit into a man who was sure he'd found true love and happiness. In examining his own unanticipated shifts in perspective, Handler sheds light on all our lives.

Handler, a stage, screen and television actor, is recognized around the world as Harry Goldenblatt, the take-no-prisoners divorce lawyer and earthy second husband of *Sex and the City* Park Avenue princess Charlotte York. He's now cultivating even more fans as David Duchovny's co-star on the hit Showtime series *Californication.* His critically acclaimed previous memoir, *Time on Fire: My Comedy of Terrors*, chronicled his tortuous, against-all-odds recovery from acute leukemia in his twenties.

For more information, or to RSVP for the Lunch and Learn, contact the JCC at 991-0990.

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Maestro Arie Lipsky in Poland

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

In September, Arie Lipsky, the conductor of the Ann Arbor Symphony, was invited to conduct in Poland. He led the Lodz Philharmonic in a concert commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto. It was the start of a year of events that will culminate in another ceremony next September. For that occasion Shimon Peres, the president of Israel, and many European heads of state and dignitaries will attend. Maestro Lipsky has been invited back to conduct again. The program will include a recent piece, the *Seven Gates of Jerusalem*, by Penderecki, Poland's premier current composer, and dedicated to Israel's 60th Anniversary.

The visit was a remarkable occasion for Maestro Lipsky because Lodz is the hometown of his parents, both survivors of the Holocaust.

Maestro Lipsky: This was my first time in Poland so I didn't know what to expect.

WJN: Your father went also?

Lipsky: Yes. I came a little early because I had six rehearsals with the orchestra and choir. We performed two pieces, one by a Polish-Jewish composer by the name of Mieczyslaw (Moishe) Wajnberg (1919–1996). He left Poland just before the war started, went to the Soviet Union, and became one of Russia's premier composers. He and Shostakovich were the two most important composers, and apparently every symphony each one wrote, they used to premiere it playing it four hands on the piano. He's not well known in the West, but I think he's being performed more and more and there are recording projects underway. He sounds a little bit like Shostakovich and Prokofiev. It's modern sounding, but with a lot of passion, a lot of heart. We played a symphony by him called *The Flowers of Poland,* which is based on poetry by Tuwim, who is one of Poland's national poets—also Jewish, born and raised in Lodz's, a survivor of the Holocaust. He is one of Lodz most important citizens; you see his statue all over. Another important Lodz citizen is Artur Rubinstein, who was also born and raised there. Right across from his house there is a bronze statue of him playing the piano, and you can put in a *zloty* and hear him play a mazurka by Chopin and so on. The orchestra that I conducted, the Lodz Philharmonic, is also called the Artur Rubinstein Philharmonic, in homage to him.

But, back to my father. I was able to connect with a man who is in charge of the Jewish cemetery. The Lodz Jewish cemetery is the biggest Jewish graveyard in the world, number two is Berlin, number three is Warsaw. It's unbelievable how large it is. Before the war, Lodz had the second largest population of Jews in the world, after Warsaw, 350,000 Jews. Now there are eight hundred.

In the cemetery they've tried to put all the *matzevahs*, the stones, on computer. There are many Lipskys. I wanted to see them, to make sure they were the right ones, before my father came, so I could prepare him for what he was going to see. In some cases we had to clear a lot of weeds and really rub the stones to find out who was buried there. And we found the one of his father, my grandfather, Moshe Aaron Lipsky. He died in 1942.

Maestro Lipsky, his father Chaim, and his sister Shifra Lipsky Sluchin in the Lodz Jewish Cemetery

Maestro Lipsky, his father Chaim, his sister Shifra Lipsky Sluchin by the gravestone of their grandfather Moshe Aaron Lipsky

His wife, Rivka, my grandmother, was sent to Auschwitz in 1944 and was gassed there. You can imagine when my father came and saw that. We said Kaddish, we cried.

As we were leaving, there was a group of about fifty Poles, in their thirties I would say, and they were taking a tour of the Jewish cemetery. The lady in charge of that group had also been our tour guide earlier, but she didn't know that we would be there on this particular day. So when she saw us, she told everyone in her group, "Here is Maestro Lipsky, who has come to conduct, and his father who is a survivor." So we became the center of attraction and all these young Poles started taking pictures, and this young lady came to my father and in Polish said, "Mr. Lipsky, we are so ashamed. We are so sorry for what happened. I feel guilty and ashamed and I ask your forgiveness." And she started crying, and we were crying, and my father, he was.… It's amazing. He, an 86-year-old survivor, started comforting her. In Polish!

In the beginning of his visit, my father was very reluctant to talk in Polish because he hadn't spoken it in years. My parents spoke Polish whenever they didn't want us to understand, [laughter] but once we grew up, it was Yiddish and Hebrew, and they forgot their Polish. But it was interesting. He was there for eight days and every day he talked more and more, and his Polish just came back to him.

So he said to this young woman in the cemetery, "Look, what happened, happened." Then he pointed to us and said, "This is the future, my kids, my grandkids." There were four grandkids, three from Paris, one from the United States, and my sister and I. "This is the victory of music over evil."

My father was saved because of his violin, right? [Maestro Lipsky told me a few years ago how his father managed to hold on to his violin while he was in Auschwitz and other camps; how he formed an orchestra in Auschwitz that played for the Germans; how his music earned him some extra food and thus helped him to survive.]

So the whole concert had this meaning. Before the concert, my father gave a speech, in Polish. The whole audience rose to their feet and for five minutes they gave him a standing ovation. That was his message. "I played the violin. It saved my life. Here I am with my kids and grandkids. This is the victory of music over evil."

The second piece on the program, after the Wajnberg, was the *New World Symphony* by Dvorak, which symbolizes the new world, new friendships, the present and the future. To have these two elements to this concert…[Lipsky's voice trailed off in wonder and we were silent for a few minutes.]

WJN: This was the first time you and your sister were in Lodz, and the first time your father was back?

Lipsky: Yes. My father left in 1941. He played in the Ghetto's orchestra. We saw pictures of that orchestra. He couldn't stand living in the Ghetto anymore. He was seventeen; the Germans were advertising the labor camps…

WJN: *Arbeit Mach Frei?*

Lipsky: *Arbeit Mach Frei*. Work makes you free. He got permission from his parents to leave, and of course he never saw them again. He left with only his violin.

My father was born in what later became the Ghetto, and then they moved to a better part of town, to the most famous street in Lodz, which is called Piotrkovska, which now looks and feels like Paris. Lots of young people. Lodz is the second largest city in Poland, many colleges, almost 24-hour, non-stop life there. We stayed in a hotel on 70 Piotrkovska. Before the war, he and his family lived in number 88, and it has not changed. On the outside it has changed, but then you go into the yard and it's all these old apartments, and we saw his old apartment. When the Germans came and started the Jewish Ghetto, all the Jews had to move into the Ghetto.

The Germans didn't call Lodz, *Lodz.* They considered it German territory. Warsaw was Polish territory. That's why they destroyed it. Lodz stayed pretty much intact, because they considered it German. They called it *Litzmannstadt* ["Litzmann's city"—named after a German general who died while attempting to conquer Lodz in World War I.] The Jewish Ghetto was actually called the *Litzmannstadt Ghetto.*

During our visit, one day, there was a performance by the Jerusalem choir in one of the synagogues in Lodz. I didn't go because I had a rehearsal, but Rachel [Maestro Lipsky's wife] took pictures. She was crying throughout the concert. There were a few Jews in the audience, but mostly non-Jews. She has a picture of four nuns up on the balcony, and the railing has a Star of David. So you can see a nun's face surrounded by a Star of David. Out of this world.

The day before my father arrived, I marched in the March of the Living. It started a couple of years ago when survivors started coming back to Poland with their kids and they march together with clergy, mayors, the Israeli Ambassador, and many dignitaries. It happens in every major city in Poland where there used to have a big Jewish community. We marched from the Jewish cemetery to the train station where the Jews were taken on their way to the camps. And there was a violinist playing. It was the melody from *Schindler's List*… [Maestro Lipsky was visibly moved. His voice trailed off.]

WJN: How hard was it for you to control your emotions while you were working?

Lipsky: At the train station, after you see how the German trains used to carry Jews, a hundred people crammed into a little car designed to carry cattle, and you can just imagine. It was the first time that I actually broke down completely. I couldn't handle it. I stood off to the side and just sobbed. You hear about it, you see movies about it, but when you see the actual thing, and the energies, you can imagine the Germans shouting *Juden,* the dogs….

The Germans used to tell my father—he was a nice guy, very handy, always smiling, joking…. His name is Chaim; they changed his name to Herman. They'd tell him "*Du bist kein Juden*"—*You're not Jewish.*

The Poles these days, I don't know how to say it, are coming to grips with their past. And some of it is not heroic, to say the least. There are not many Jews left in Poland. There are 800 in Lodz, there are maybe three thousand in Warsaw, some in Cracow, but all of Poland has a Jewish renewal. There are Jewish restaurants all over.

WJN: Run by non-Jews?

Lipsky: Yes. And many Poles are eating there, too. Apparently the Poles discovered something very interesting. They told us that they learned it's not possible to talk about Polish history without talking about Jewish history. And Jews know you can't talk about Jewish history without talking about Polish history. It's really intertwined.

So we went to these places like Anatevka, taken, of course, from *Fiddler on the Roof,* and it's a chain of Jewish restaurants, full of Jewish pictures and paintings of rabbis, and there is a klezmer violinist playing Jewish music.

WJN: I've heard that in Germany and in other parts of Europe there are now klezmer revivals. These are non-Jews playing klezmer; they're learning Yiddish, singing in Yiddish, they're playing the typical klezmer instruments, clarinet, violin… it's amazing.

Lipsky: My nephew, Naaman Sluchin, is a fantastic violinist. He'll be the soloist in Decem-

ber, when I conduct the Haifa Symphony. He came to Poland with all of us, of course. We went to one of the Anatevka restaurants. There was a violinist playing Hasidic music. My nephew asked to borrow his violin and then he started playing some of the pieces my father used to play, including his favorite, the Czardas by Monti. [Lipsky starts singing the opening melody.] He played the whole thing. There were about sixty, seventy people in the restaurant. They understood what was happening. Everyone was crying. It was beautiful. My father, he just *kvelled*.

They are restoring the Jewish cemeteries. Actually that's how the whole concept came about, because there is a retired couple in Buffalo, Hannah and Norman Weinberg, both of their ancestors came from Poland and they started a foundation to restore Jewish cemeteries in Poland. When they started they couldn't believe the amount of emails and contributions that came in. What's nice about it is, they're not just restoring the past. They started with Norman's hometown, Ozerov, which was seventy-percent Jewish before the war. When he came there to visit, he learned that nobody knew that there had been Jews living there. The cemetery had been completely destroyed. The gravestones were used by the Germans to pave roads. He started talking with the priest and the mayor. And of course they knew the history and they became interested. So the priest organized every Sunday, after church, all the kids go to the Jewish cemetery, clean it, take the weeds out and Norman started a contest where the kids write, as part of their curriculum, essays about "the Jewish life in my town." So that makes them go to archives and find out that they didn't know about their history. Each one writes about a different subject and there is a competition and the three top ones get scholarships, and the number one winner in Poland gets a year in college in the United States. It has grown much larger, and is now found in several communities.

On the other hand, on my way from Warsaw to Lodz, a two hour ride by car, in the small towns, every once in awhile you see a swastika and a Star of David. At one point I asked the driver, "Am I interpreting this the right way?" He said, "Yes. Unfortunately, between twenty and thirty percent are still hard core anti-Semitic. Not even trying to hide it."

WJN: Young people, or just the older generation?

Lipsky: Both. Young as well. So they try to address it. In Lodz they've just started a Center for Dialog that will be for us, the survivors, their kids and grandkids, to meet Poles, to have a dialog, to make sure this doesn't happen again. You know what? I salute them.

WJN: Most of the people who are alive today have nothing to do with what happened then, but if they're not aware of those things.

Lipsky: They are the first ones to say, "You know, we know about those swastikas, and we are working on it. But we are a democracy, and we have to do it the right way. And it has to be done through education. That's why," they said to us, "We need you to tell these stories here and remind us." ■

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November Events

Joe Lovano "Us Five" Quintet and Jason Moran

Joe Lovano saxophones | **Esperanza Spalding** bass | **James Weidman** piano
Francisco Mela drums | **Otis Brown III** drums
FRI, NOV 7, 8 PM | Michigan Theater

Joe Lovano's new "Us Five" Quintet is reaching special heights where off-the-cuff ideas, rooted in jazz tradition, meet serious fun. His lush, inimitable saxophone sound will be on display within the contexts of both his virtuosic, two-drummer quintet and in duets with the exciting pianist/composer/improviser Jason Moran. The evening features solo piano ruminations from Blue Note recording artist Moran in addition to musical conversations between two of today's modern jazz masters.

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Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman

SAT, NOV 8, 8 PM | Hill Auditorium

Yefim Bronfman is widely regarded as one of the most talented virtuoso pianists performing today. Born in Russia, he emigrated to Israel at age 14. He "bucks the stereotype of the Russian soloist as merely a technical wizard of large sound and emphatic personality. He has technique to burn, but he also has a chameleon-like ability to subsume himself in the music." (*The New York Times*) Returning for the first time since his UMS debut in 1994, Bronfman is joined by the great American pianist Emanuel Ax, renowned not only for his poetic temperament and unsurpassed virtuosity but also for the exceptional breadth of his performing activity.

PROGRAM
Brahms — Variations for Two Pianos on a Theme by Haydn, Op. 56b (1873)
Bolcom — Recuerdos (1991)
Mozart — Sonata for Two Pianos in D Major, K. 448 (1781)
Rachmaninoff — Symphonic Dances, Op. 45 (1940)

Co-Sponsored by **Robert and Marina Whitman** and **Clayton and Ann Wilhite.**
Media Partner **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, WRCJ 90.9 FM,** and **Detroit Jewish News.**

Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir

Tõnu Kaljuste founding director and conductor
THU, NOV 13, 8 PM | St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Reaffirming its reputation as one of the best choirs in the world, the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir is especially admired for its performances of Arvo Pärt's music and presents a program of music by Pärt and another Estonian composer, Erkki-Sven Tüür.

PROGRAM
Tüür — Passion (1993)
Tüür — Requiem (1994)
Pärt — Occident Orient (for strings, 2000)
Pärt — Te Deum (1985, rev. 1992)

Sponsored by **Carl and Charlene Herstein.**
Media Sponsor **WRCJ 90.9 FM.**

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra

Leon Botstein music director | **Robert McDuffie** violin
SUN, NOV 16, 4 PM | Hill Auditorium

Leon Botstein has one of the most unusual resumes in the business: the Bard College president is founder and co-artistic director of the Bard Music Festival, directs the American Symphony Orchestra, and now leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, originally founded in the 1940s as Israel's national radio orchestra. This UMS debut performance features works by three Jewish-American composers.

PROGRAM
Sternberg — The Twelve Tribes of Israel (1941)
Bernstein — Serenade for Solo Violin, Strings, Harp, and Percussion (after Plato's "Symposium") (1954)
Copeland — Symphony No. 3 (1944-46)

Sponsored by the **UMS National Council.**
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Hosted by **Thomas B. McMullen Company** and **Beverly Franzblau Baker.**
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Translation of Anne Frank diary resonates with Cambodians

By Tibor Krausz

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (JTA) — As a young girl in the early 1990s, Sayana Ser often spent the night cowering in fear with her family in an underground shelter her father had dug beneath their home on the outskirts of this capital city.

Outside, marauding bands of Khmer Rouge guerrillas battled it out with government forces. Meanwhile, brutal mass murder was still fresh on civilians' minds.

A decade later, as a 19-year-old scholarship student in the Netherlands, Sayana chanced upon the memoirs of another girl who had feared for her life in even more dire circumstances.

It was *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, the precocious Jewish teenager who hid from the Nazis in occupied Amsterdam until her family's hiding place was discovered and she was sent to her death in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

"While reading the book I couldn't hold my tears back," Sayana recalls. "I wondered how Anna must have felt and how she could bear it."

Sayana now is the director of a student outreach and educational program at a Cambodian research institution that documents the Khmer Rouge genocide. Between 1975 and 1979, up to 2 million people — a fourth of the population — perished on Pol Pot's "killing fields" in one of the worst mass murders since the Holocaust.

Sayana, who wrote her master's thesis about "dark tourism," or touristic voyeurism at genocide sites in Cambodia and elsewhere, also visited several Holocaust memorials and death camps.

"I couldn't believe how one human being could do this to another, whether they were Jews or Khmers," she says.

On returning home, she sought permission to translate the Anne Frank diary into Khmer.

The Holocaust classic was published by the country's leading genocide research group, the Documentation Center of Cambodia. It is now available for Khmer students at high school libraries in Phnom Penh alongside locally written books about the Khmer Rouge period. Such books include *First They Killed My Father* by Loung Ung, which recounts the harrowing experiences of a child survivor of the killing fields.

"I have seen many Anna Franks in Cambodia," says Youk Chhang, the head of the documentation center and Cambodia's foremost researcher on genocide.

Inspired by Anne's diary, some Cambodian students have begun to write their own diaries to chronicle the sorrows and joys of their daily lives

A child survivor himself, Chhang lost siblings and numerous relatives in the mass murders perpetrated by Pol Pot and his followers.

"If we Cambodians had read her diary a long time ago," he says, "perhaps there could have been a way for us to prevent the Cambodian genocide from happening."

Anne Frank's message, he adds, remains as potent as ever. "Genocide continues to happen in the world around us even today," Youk says. "Her diary can still play an important role in prevention."

Although the story of Anne and her resilient optimism in the face of murderous evil has touched millions of readers around the world, it may particularly resonate with Cambodians, Sayana adds.

"Under Pol Pot, many children were separated from their families. They faced starvation and were sent to the front to fight and die," she explains. "Like Anna, they never knew peace and the warmth of a home."

Inspired by Anne's diary, she adds, some Cambodian students have begun to write their own diaries to chronicle the sorrows and joys of their daily lives.

Children in Laos, too, can soon learn of Anne's story and insights.

In the impoverished, war-torn communist country bordering Cambodia, almost a million people perished during the Vietnam War, while countless landmines and a low-level insurgency continue to take lives daily.

Yet with books for children almost nonexistent beyond simple school textbooks, Lao students remain largely ignorant of the world and history. In a private initiative, an American expat publisher is now bringing them children's classics translated into Lao, including Anne Frank's diary.

"I was describing the book to a bright college graduate here and gave him a little context," says Sasha Alyson, the founder of Big Brother Mouse, a small publishing house in Vientiane, the Lao capital, which specializes in books for Lao children. He recalls the student asking, 'World War II? Is that the same as Star Wars?"

Anna Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl,* he says, will provide Lao children with a much-needed lesson in history. ■

Contemporary art meets Chabad at new exhibition in Moscow

By Sophia Kishkovsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Billionaire art collectors, critics, socialites, gallery directors, and other denizens of the international art scene were among the standard guests at the recent opening of a vast, new nonprofit contemporary art space in the Russian capital.

But there was an unusual addition to the champagne-sipping crowd at the launch of The Garage Center for Contemporary Culture: Chasidic Jews.

The nearly 92,000 square-foot space, in a famous constructivist building called the Bakhmetyevsky Bus Depot, designed by the legendary architect Konstantin Melnikov in the 1920s, is on the grounds of facilities run by the Chabad-led Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia.

"Who in Moscow in the 1960s, or Petersburg in the 1970s, could have imagined that in the beginning of the 21st century a contemporary art center would be built on the site of a bus depot next door to a Jewish center?" marveled Mikhail Shvydkoi, a Kremlin special cultural envoy, at a news conference at The Garage on opening day, September 16.

"If someone had told someone this in a kitchen in 1960, or 1970, or even in 1980, they would have been thought crazy," he said.

The Garage is the brainchild of Daria Zhukova, a fashion designer, former model and the girfriend of Jewish oligarch Roman Abramovich, who is ranked by *Forbes* as the 15th richest man in the world. Abramovich has become famous internationally in recent years in part due to his ownership of the Chelsea Football Club in London and as a buyer of extravagant yachts.

He is well known in the Jewish world because of his close ties to the Federation of Jewish Communities; he heads its board of trustees.

Everything at The Garage is on a world-class level. Mollie Dent-Brocklehurst, the project's coordinator, opened the first London-based Gagosian Gallery in 1999. Zhukova told *Afisha,* a trendy cultural affairs magazine, that her models for The Garage are the Museum of Modern Art in New York and London's Tate Modern and Serpentine Gallery.

Guests at The Garage's opening day, including Abramovich and a bevy of bodyguards, walked past the Federation of Jewish Communities' Beit Shvidler Educational Center — named in honor of Evgeny Shvidler, an associate of Abramovich's and the billionaire who funded the center — and Sharei Tzedek Charity Center to reach the museum-within-a-museum constructed for the inaugural exhibition.

Titled "An Alternative History of Art," the exhibition is by the Soviet Jewish émigré artist Ilya Kabakov and his wife and collaborator, Emilia, who are famous for their "total installations."

Zhukova, who was born in Moscow but educated in California and had been living in London, told *Afisha* magazine that she discovered the Bakhmetyevsky Garage when familiarizing herself with the federation's programs. "I was interested in the Jewish community's educational programs and was walking around the various buildings when I saw the garage, and asked them about this beautiful building," she said.

Joseph Backstein, commissar of the Moscow biennale of contemporary art and curator of the Kabakov exhibition, said the project would not have been possible without the help of Zhukova's IRIS Foundation, her vehicle for art-world philanthropy, and the "huge support of the Federation of Jewish Communities."

Kabakov, a children's book illustrator in his everyday Soviet life, was one of the founders of the underground Moscow Conceptualists art movement. He left the Soviet Union in 1987 and became the most famous Russian contemporary artist in the world.

Although exhibitions of his work had been held in recent years at the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and at a gallery in Moscow, the current Moscow show, which is spread across three venues with The Garage installation as the centerpiece, is the first major retrospective of the Kabakovs' work in Russia.

Other works are being shown at the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and the Contemporary Art Center Winzavod. The retrospective runs at the three venues through October 19.

The project almost fell through when Mikhail Prokhorov, another billionaire who had been on board to fund the show, backed out. The pieces fell back into place, said Emilia Kabakov, when Zhukova—and Abramovich — stepped in.

Abramovich, 42 was not noted for a passion for art before he met Zhukova, 27, a fashion designer and former model, and divorced his wife and mother of his five children, Irina, to be with her. He is known in Russia for, among other things, his philanthropy in the impoverished Arctic region of Chukotka. As Chukotka's Kremlin-appointed governor, he was revered there for spending hundreds of millions of dollars of his own fortune—estimated at $23.5 billion by *Forbes* magazine—on housing and social services. In July he resigned from his post but is now running for Chukotka's Parliament.

Zhukova, whose father is an oil tycoon, refuses to talk about her relationship with Abramovich, but Emilia Kabakov indicated that Abramovich is writing at least some of the checks for the new venture.

"This is an incredible center," she said, adding it wouldn't have been possible without the help of the influential couple.

"It's amazing that our visit to Russia coincided with the opening of this wonderful new center, this new undertaking, which proposes that in this utopian center, in Melnikov's utopian building, this time will be built not a utopia, but something real, a center of contemporary culture," Emilia Kabakov said.

Before Zhukova appeared in the picture, the Kabakovs were already working with the Federation of Jewish Communities, attempting to get an exhibition in the bus depot off the ground. Vladimir Shukhov, great-grandson of the engineer who built the unique girders of the Bakhmetyevsky bus depot, credits the federation with saving the building.

"I must bow down in thanks before the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, since it is to a large extent thanks to its efforts that the garage was saved," he said at a news conference, according the federation's Web site. "You know there had already been talk of tearing it down and putting up apartment buildings on this site." Many architectural landmarks have been torn down in Moscow to make way for lucrative housing projects.

Aleksandr Boroda, president of the federation, said at the news conference that the organization has big plans for The Garage. It was granted a lease on the building in 2001 and intends, ultimately, to turn it into a Russian Jewish Museum of Tolerance that would depict historical eras from the time of the creation of the world and include a children's museum, multimedia Hall of Tolerance, genealogical center and exhibitions devoted to the major religions, including Islam.

Boroda said the Kremlin supports the museum and that Vladimir Putin even donated a month's salary to the project in 2007, when he was still president.

The opening of The Garage in the space is meant to entrench the venue on Moscow's cultural map in time for the museum's opening in 2012, Boroda said. ■

Shabbat dinner with memories

Judy Cohen, food editor

I remember one cold and snowy winter evening in St. Paul, Minnesota. It seems like a lifetime ago. My father had picked me up from the University of Minnesota on his way home from work, as he often did, and we had traveled home together on that Friday evening. He dropped me off with my armload of books to trudge the short distance through deep fresh snow in the back yard to our small, Cape Cod-style home while he parked the car in the garage. As I looked through the darkness toward the kitchen window, a beautiful and familiar sight greeted my eyes, and I told myself at that moment that I would freeze that picture in my mind to last the rest of my life, and so I have.

The white house, blending in with the snow, seemed to disappear leaving only this scene framed by the window to shine brightly against the dark night. The table appeared to hover close to the window, since there wasn't much room in the small kitchen. It was set with everyone's places: my brother's, my parents', and mine. My mother bent over the stove on the other side of the kitchen stirring something in a pot. But what really stood out was in the center of that small table, my bubbie's candlesticks. She had brought them and a *samovar* (large coffee urn) from Russia. They had been given to my mother when Bubbie moved to an apartment and someday, I knew, they would be mine, but there was no rush. They had been polished, as they were every week, and gleamed brightly. I saw that the short white Shabbat candles had recently been lit and knew that the blessing was just said. The candles had not burnt down very much and the flames flickered eagerly back and forth, as though anxious to begin the Sabbath celebration and meal.

As we gathered at the table, we blessed the challah and the Manischewitz wine. From time to time, my bubbie came over on a Sunday to bake challah, bagels, and *kuchen* (onion rolls), and we would wrap and save these in the freezer for use on Shabbat. I loved to watch her do this, but didn't learn the recipe, and never found one that tasted as good. Of course, she didn't really have a recipe. It was a handful of this and a bit of that done so quickly it was impossible to write down.

Our Shabbat meal was quite simple. We began with salad, followed by chicken soup with matzo balls. Next there was juicy oven-roasted paprika chicken with browned sliced potatoes, having been roasted in the same pan, crusty on the edges but soft in the center. Side dishes included sliced, cooked carrots sautéed in butter and brown sugar, steamed broccoli or asparagus, and noodle *kugel.* Other times, when we ate at Bubbie's, the meal might start with an appetizer of chopped chicken liver and crackers or gefilte fish with horseradish. The main dish was delicious beef and prune *tzimmes* (stew). Some families, in order to not violate the "no cooking on Shabbat" rule, prepare a different sort of stew called *cholent* which can be made in advance and kept warm.

For dessert at our house, there was always a choice of homemade cookies (chocolate, chocolate chip, or frosted butterscotch available from the freezer), or home made pies (apple, blueberry, or pecan, served hot and a la mode). That evening there was chocolate pudding made from scratch (my favorite), simmering on low heat, its fragrant aroma dominant and beckoning. We ate it hot, topped with heaping spoonfuls of frothy, fresh sweet whipped cream. Clearly my family did not keep Kosher, or they would have perhaps had a *pareve* ice cream.

I don't know when I first began to recognize that these foods, and variations thereof, constitute a large, but not exclusive part of *Ashkenazic* (East European) traditional cuisine that were then, and still are, served in Jewish homes all over the world. Now that I have children and grandchildren of my own, I do my best to pass on these traditions. I did eventually receive the candle sticks. They never fail to evoke this beautiful memory.

Although we were not a particularly religious family, we usually went to Friday night services after the meal. I loved hearing the cantor with his operatic tenor, the beautiful organ and the choir harmonizing while we joined in the prayers with the congregation at appropriate times and listened to the rabbi's inspirational words. It was a wonderful evening from start to finish: the delicious meal steeped in tradition and symbol, being close to my family, greeting friends at the service. I will always cherish these memories and feelings that set Shabbat apart from the rest of the week. ■

Pareve Ice Cream

6 eggs, separated
2 cartons (8 oz) Richwhip or other *pareve* whipping cream
½ c. sugar
3 tsp. vanilla

Beat egg whites until stiff; transfer to a large clean bowl. In a second bowl, with clean beaters, beat Richwhip until stiff, adding vanilla gradually. In another clean bowl, beat yolk, gradually adding sugar till very pale lemon color. Carefully fold all above together. Cover with plastic wrap. Put into freezer for at least 12 hours.

Variations: At the end, you can fold in melted *pareve* chocolate chips, to make chocolate ice cream, or instead of vanilla, use orange flavoring and a touch of orange food coloring, mint, coffee, coconut, or fresh fruit, cookie bits, nuts, etc.

Although this is very easy to make, there is also a very good brand at Trader Joe's called Double Rainbows.

From www.astray.com/recipes.

Sweet and sour prune tzimmes

2 lbs chuck roast
water to cover
¾ c. tomato juice or stewed tomatoes.
Salt, pepper to taste
1 T. sugar
5 white potatoes, quartered
2–3 sweet potatoes, sliced
1½ c. dry prunes
¾ c. dried apricots.

Sear chuck lightly in a little fat or oil. Add water to cover and cook 1 hour. Add tomato juice and remaining ingredients. Cover and cook on a low flame until ingredients are tender. Add extra water if the stew appears to be drying out. When done, fruit should be mushy and gravy thickening. Excellent if left over for the next day. Yield 4–6 servings.

From Like Mama Used to Make and More, *Ann Arbor Hadassah cookbook*

Mom's chocolate cookies

½ c. shortening, such as Crisco or Spry
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla
1 c. sugar
3 oz. unsweetened chocolate melted
(use double boiler or microwave)
¾ c. sifted flour
¾ c. chopped pecans (optional)
2 eggs, well beaten

Combine shortening, salt and vanilla. Add sugar, "cream" well (i.e., blend sugar and shortening together with the back of a wooden spoon until smooth). Add chocolate, blend. Add flour, nuts, mix well. Drop by half teaspoonful from tip of spoon onto lightly greased baking sheets. Let stand a few minutes. Cover the bottom of a small juice class with a slightly damp cloth and flatten the cookie rounds. Bake 7–8 minutes in 375° oven.

From my mother, Bertha Arenson

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November 2008

Saturday 1

Camp Information Session: TBE. Information about Olan Sang Ruby Institute-OSRUI, Reform Jewish Camp in Wisconsin. 8:35 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. For details, call TBE school office at 665-5817. *Also Sunday, November 2 at 7:05 p.m.*

Shabbat Limud: BIC. Shabbat Learning facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin. Discussion of weekly Torah portion with coffee and cakes served. 9 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Teen Shabbat Schmooze: BIC. 4 p.m. at Rabbi Blumenthal's home. 4 p.m.

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 2

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the **weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.***

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Volleyball: EMU Hillel. Get out of your room and play volleyball at 1 p.m. at EMU Rec IM. For information, contact Ricky Kamil at program@emuhillel.org.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 3

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9:30 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 S. State St.. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing*.

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time." With Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 4

School's Out, JCC's In: JCC. For JCC members only in AAPS grades K-5 with middle school students welcome to participate as helpers. Full day program featuring field trip or activities. $34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32/additional siblings.) $8 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. Registration is due at least 3 days in advance. For information or to register, visit www.jcccannarbor.org or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Blood Pressure Clinic: JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will take blood pressures, record them and address any questions. 1 p.m. *First Tuesday each month.*

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Wednesday 5

Jewish Book Festival: JCC. Annual event featuring best-selling authors from around the country. Daily "Lunch and Learns" for $10 at noon on weekdays, plus varied evening events. For information, phone 971-0990. *Through November 17.*

Lunch and Learn: BIC. "Where Do We Go From Here?" With Rabbi Dobrusin. Bring a dairy lunch, drinks and dessert provided. Noon.

"Understanding Happiness:" JCC Seniors. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Series of weekly sessions led by Instructor Mike Murray. $20. 1:30–3 p.m. *October 29 through November 26*

Thursday 6

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky. Contact Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for current book. 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Registration Deadline: JCC Youth. A variety of Youth Enrichment Classes begins November 10 and runs through the week of December 15. 4:15–5:15 p.m. Fees vary. Register by 11/6. For information, visit www.jccannarbor.org or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Book Festival Book Talk: TBE. With Evan Fallenberg, Israeli author and translator for Meir Shalev, discussing his book *Light Fell* which deals with Judaism, homosexuality and Israel. Noon.

Birthdays and Book Festival Speaker: JCC Seniors. Celebration for all with birthdays in November. Friends and family welcome to join for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m., followed by discussion of *Light Fell* led by book author Evan Fallenberg, a writer, teacher and translator currently living in Israel. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 7

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. (Note location change.) 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Breakfast Shabbat: EMU Hillel. 6–8 p.m. at EMU Hillel. For information, contact Ricky Kamil at program@emuhillel.org.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Service with special Kristalnacht readings. 7:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 8

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots aged 3–5 years old and parents. 11:15 a.m.

Minyan Matok (M & M): BIC. Special service for children in K–2nd grade with songs, stories and active learning. 11:15 a.m.

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of calendar.*

Sunday 9

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Mussar Study Group: BIC. 9:45 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Youth Group Event: TBE Rishonim. Chocolate-making at Schakolad and lunch at Subway.1 p.m. $10. For information or to RSVP, contact Abe at amorrison@templebethemeth.org or call 417-0417.

Schmooze and Schmere: EMU Hillel. 1–3 p.m. Location TBA. For information, contact Ricky Kamil at program@emuhillel.org.

"The New Wave of Congregational Singing:" BIC. With Cantor Jeffrey Shiovitz. 1:30 p.m.

Dinner and Lecture: TBE Renaissance Group. Dinner at the Macaroni Grill Restaurant followed by attending Jewish Book Fair for the Jeffrey Zaslow book lecture at the JCC. 5:30 p.m. RSVP to Gale Stolzenberg by November 5 at 477-9091 or email galestolzenberg@yahoo.com.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 10

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9:30 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 S. State St.. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Workshop: JFS. "One Stop Shop for Peace of Mind," presented as part of the Housing Bureau for Senior's Aging in Place Week. Creating and organizing your medical, legal, and financial documents are key components of successful aging in place. Legal experts and geriatric care managers will walk through the process of preparing for later life decisions by compiling crucial documents. Participants will leave with documents in hand. 2–4 p.m. at Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. For more information, contact Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson, MSW, PhD at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Hebrew with Hila: EMU Hillel. 7–8 p.m. at the EMU Student Center Starbucks. For information, contact Ricky Kamil at program@emuhillel.org.

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time," with Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 11

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

OSHER Lifelong Learning Program: TBE Renaissance Group.. "What Happened Last Tuesday?" 10:30 a.m.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 12

Lunch and Learn: BIC. "What Non-Jews Get Right, What They Get Wrong and What They Want to Know About Judaism." Bring a dairy lunch, drinks and desserts provided. Noon

Afternoon Delight: JCC Seniors. *Maestro Arie Lipsky and Friends* presented by the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. $8. Refreshments at 1:30 p.m. Concert at 2 p.m. at the JCC. For information, phone 971-0990.

ASB Bonding: EMU Hillel. 7 p.m. For information, contact Ricky Kamil at program@emuhillel.org.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

"Fixed Prayer and Unfixed Prayer and Who's Listening Anyway?" TBE. First of two-session class led by Rabbi Levy. 7:30 p.m. RSVP to 665-4744.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Taught by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Free twelve-session class. Class starts at 7:45 p.m., however students are encouraged to join the congregation for Ma'ariv evening service at 7:30 p.m.

Concert: UM Hillel. Hadag Nachash concert. $15 discount rate for UM students at Michigan Union Ticket Office or $25 full rate through ticketmaster.com. 8 p.m. at Blind Pig, Ashley Street.

Thursday 13

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

Calendar

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see today's JCC Book Festival event), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky, 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

JCC Book Festival. Aaron Cohen, former Israeli Special Forces operative and California-based counterterrorism consultant will discuss his book, *Brotherhood of Warriors*. 1 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 14

School's Out, JCC's In: JCC. Full day program for JCC members only in HDS grades K-5 with middle school students welcome to participate as helpers. Featuring a field trip or special activities. $34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32/additional siblings.) $8 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. Registration is due at least 3 days in advance. For information or to register, visit www.jcccannarbor.org or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Book Festival Speaker: JFS. New York-themed lunch featuring Evan Handler from the tv series *Sex and the City*. $12 includes lunch. Reservations required by November 7 to Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org. Noon at the JCC.

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. (Note location change.) 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 15

"Creating Community Through Storytelling:" Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild. Annual Tellabration Evening Concert of Storytelling for Adults (14 and older), featuring singer and songwriter Kathleen Moore as the Master of Ceremonies and some of the area's best storytellers. 7:30 p.m. at St. Clare's Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. $10/tickets at the door. Proceeds will help bring outstanding storytellers to local schools and communities. For information, call Beverly Black at 665-4312 or email bevblack@umich.edu.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat Limud: BIC. Shabbat Learning session facilitated by Rabbi Dobrusin. Discussion of weekly Torah portion with cakes and coffee provided. 9 a.m.

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of the calendar.*

Sunday 16

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan. Sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth's Caring Community. 1 p.m. For details, contact TBE office at 665-4744.

"Creating Community Through Storytelling:" Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild. Annual Tellebration Family Storytelling Concert for ages 4 and older. Cosponsored by the Ann Arbor District Library. 2 p.m. at Pittsfield Branch Library, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. For information, contact bevblack@umich.edu.

Book Talk: UM Hillel. Lisa Klug, former staff writer for the Associated Press and the Los Angeles Times, discusses her new book *Cool Jew,* which covers everything Hebraic from womb to womb and celebrates Jewish cultural pride with love, enthusiasm, and irreverence. Call 769-0500 for time.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday*

Monday 17

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9:30 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 S. State St. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Judaism and Music: University Musical Society, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and UM Institute for the Humanities. Illumination and demonstration of new methods for studying the intersection of Judaism and music. Series of lectures and panel discussion with Leon Botstein, President of Bard College and Music Director for the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra; Kay Kaufman Shelemay, Harvard University; and Michael P. Steinberg, Brown University. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at Rackham Amphitheatre, 915 E. Washington.

Text Study: BIC. "Jewish Perspectives on the Beginning and End of Time," led by Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 18

National Memory Screening: JCC. In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, the UM Geriatric Center, Care Response and Jewish Family Services, the JCC will be hosting a free memory screening. 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Decorate and Donate: EMU Hillel. Blankets and Pumpkin Pie. 6–8 p.m. For information, contact Ricky Kamil at program@emuhillel.org.

Forum: Union of Progressive Zionists, American Movement for Israel, and Students Allied for Freedom & Equality. Robi Demelin and Ali Abu Awwad, featured in the film *Encounter Point,* speak from 7–10 p.m. Both speakers are from the Parents Circle Families Forum, a bereavement group for Israelis and Palestinians who have lost immediate family due to the conflict and who wish to pursue reconciliation as an alternative to revenge. Catered reception follows. 7–10 p.m. at UM Michigan League Ballroom.

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 19

Lunch and Learn: BIC. "Jews in the News," with Rabbi Dobrusin. Bring a dairy lunch, drinks and desserts provided. Noon.

"Fixed Prayer and Unfixed Prayer and Who's Listening Anyway?" TBE. Second of two-session class led by Rabbi Levy. 7:30 p.m. RSVP to 665-4744.

God at the Ballot Box: EMU Hillel. 7–8:30 p.m. in EMU Student Center Kiva Room.

Meditation: TBE. 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Talmudic Ethics: Jewish Learning Institute. JLI series bringing wisdom of the Talmud to the general public. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Taught by Rabbi Kim Blumenthal. Free twelve-session class. Class starts at 7:45 p.m., however students are encouraged to join the congregation for Ma'ariv evening service at 7:30 p.m.

Caregiver Conversations: JCC Adult Programs and JFS. When is it time to seek out in-home care for aging parents and how can they remain independent? What's the best way to find a trustworthy, high quality home care provider? What's the difference between skilled nursing and private duty care? Find answers to these questions and more at this session on In-Home Care. 6:30–8 p.m. For information, contact Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Thursday 20

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky. Contact Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for current book. 2:15 p.m. at the JCC.

"The Pride and Honor Flight:" JCC Seniors. Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker will be available for discussion, questions and assistance at 12:30 p.m. followed at 1 p.m. by Lynn Monson, assistant Metro editor of the *Ann Arbor News,* who will present a talk about his recent trip with local veterans to the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Adoption Info Event: JFS. "Are You My Real Mommy? Answering the Hard Questions of Adoption." Community-wide event in honor of National Adoption Month addressing the 10 most challenging questions posed by adoptees. Q&A session follows. For adoptive parents, prospective adoptive parents, school professionals and other adoptive family members. Free childcare provided. For more information, visit www.jfsannarbor.org or email Lisa Keefauver at lisa@jfsannarbor.org. 6–8 p.m. at the JCC.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 21

Weekly Yiddish Reading Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. (Note location change.) 1:30–3 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

Shabbat Happens: EMU Hillel. 6–8 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 22

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots ages 3–5 years old and parents. 11:15 a.m.

Minyan Matok (M & M): BIC. Special service for children in K–2nd grade with songs, stories and active learning. 11:15 a.m.

Kids' Night Out: JCC. Monthly event featuring "An Inventive Evening" for kids in grades K-5, with crafts, dinner and a movie. This month will feature the film *Wall-E* plus robot-inspired games and crafts. Dinner included. $20/JCC members; $18/additional siblings. $25/non-members; $23/additional siblings. Register by 11/20. 6:30–10 p.m. For information or to register, contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org, visit www.jccannarbor.org or phone 971-0990.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at end of the calendar.*

Sunday 23

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Mussar Study Group: BIC. 9:45 p.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Women's Health Forum: Hadassah, ORT, and the Sisterhoods of Beth Israel Congregregation and Temple Beth Emeth. "Choose Life: A Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Approach to Breast Cancer Protection." Beaumont Hospital's Dr. Ruth Lerman and Certified Genetic Counselor Whitney Ducaine will talk about breast health, plus a new way to perform a breast exam. Participants should wear comfortable clothes. Refreshments provided. 2–4 p.m. at the JCC. For information, call Shoshana Mandel at 623-1044 or Eileen Thacker at 302-1810.

"What is it Like to Live on Welfare?" UM Hillel. Three-hour experiential learning workshop pre-

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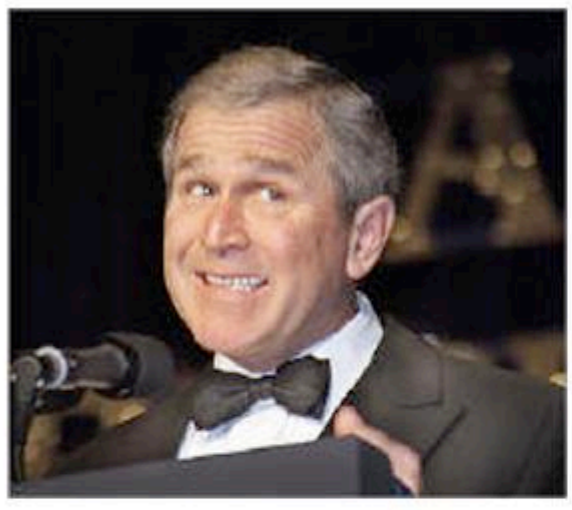

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sented by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice that offers participants an opportunity to better understand the realities of living in poverty. 3–6 p.m. For information, visit umhillel.org.

Erev Thanksgiving Service: TBE. Annual community event shared by TBE and St. Clare's Episcopal Church at 2309 Packard. 7:30 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 24

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9:30 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 S. State St. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

Hebrew with Hila: EMU Hillel. 7–8 p.m. at the EMU Student Center Starbucks. For information, contact Ricky Kamil at program@emuhillel.org.

Tuesday 25

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; games and activities including mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group): All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

Jewish Learning Institute: Fall semester class "Soul Maps," using Kabbalah to navigate your inner world. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud, and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy, and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 26

School's Out, JCC's In: JCC. For JCC members only in AAPS and HDS grades K-5 with middle school students welcome to participate as helpers. $34 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. ($32/additional siblings.) $8 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. Registration is due at least 3 days in advance. For information or to register, visit www.jcccannarbor.org or contact Deborah Huerta at deborahhuerta@jccfed.org or phone 971-0990.

Whirly Ball: EMU Hillel. In Novi, Michigan. For information, contact Ricky Kamil at program@emuhillel.org.

Thursday 27

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

Talmud Study: UM Hillel. With Rabbi Glogower. 7–8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 28

Friday evening services: *See listing at end of calendar.*

Saturday 29

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 30

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. Services held at UM Hillel at 5:05 p.m. on November 7; 4:55 p.m. on November 14; 4:50 p.m. on November 21; 4:45 p.m. on November 28. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and meals. Call 994-9258 in advance.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira: Family Shabbat in Song at 6:45 p.m.; Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 p.m. at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 p.m.. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services and classes

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Ma'ariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvor Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. UM Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Mincha. Morning childcare from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and *yom tov* (Jewish holiday). Call 995-3276 in advance.

"Mystical Insights to the Torah:" Chabad. For women to learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. Saturday, one hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

"Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:" Chabad. Study group examines the code of law for Shabbat and Jewish ethics. Saturday, 1/2 hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

November 7	5:00 p.m.
November 14	4:53 p.m.
November 21	4:47 p.m.
November 28	4:44 p.m.

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Places and spaces: Exploring what makes up the Jewish tapestry

By Ruth Ellen Gruber

ROME (JTA)—We've all played the "Jewish geography" game—you know, questioning someone we've only just met in order to discover common Jewish connections, friends, or even family.

In doing so, we are mapping out our experiences, delineating a sort of Jewish topography of interlinking backgrounds, histories, and far-flung *mishpocha*.

Somehow I feel a sense of profound satisfaction when I discover an unexpected link with a stranger. It's like a gift, an almost magical sense of communion with the densely woven tapestry of Jewish life—or at least with an individual or a place that helps make up that tapestry.

The idea of Jewish topography and the spaces and places—physical and metaphysical—in which Jews live, dream, and interact forms the basis of a fascinating new book.

Jewish Topographies: Visions of Space, Traditions of Place (Ashgate Publishing House, 2008) is a collection of essays by a score of international scholars who participated in a six-year research project at the University of Potsdam in Germany.

Called *Makom*, or "place" in Hebrew, the project aimed to explore the relevance of space and place in Jewish life and culture.

In my own writing, I have dealt frequently with "Jewish space" in the way that the Paris-based historian Diana Pinto framed it. She coined the term in the 1990s to describe the place occupied by Jews, Jewish culture, and Jewish memory within mainstream European society, regardless of the size or activity of the local Jewish population.

"There is a Jewish space in Europe that will exist even in the absence of Jews," she said. "The 'Jewish thing' is becoming universal."

Pinto's thesis was a spark for my own explorations of the often intense relationship between non-Jews and Jewish culture in Europe. I coined the term "virtually Jewish" to describe how non-Jews often "fill" Europe's Jewish space with their own ideas and operations.

Jewish Topographies takes a much different approach.

It regards Jewish space from within the Jewish world rather than from the virtually Jewish perspective of outside interaction. It sees Jewish spaces as actual environments that are shaped by Jews, where Jewish life may be rooted and where Jewish activities go on.

"Jewish things" happen there and often, in turn, define the identity of the physical places where they are happening.

One of the goals of the project, the book's editors write, was to counteract stereotypes that long have conveyed "the pervasive impression that the Jewish experience—except the Israeli one—is one of profound displacement, lacking not only a proper territory but also a substantial spatiality or attachment to place."

They mean stereotypes such as the description of Jews as the "People of the Book" and of the book itself as the Jews' "portable homeland," not to mention the widespread cliche of the "wandering Jew."

I must admit that I myself actually fulfill some of these stereotypes. I have lived in seven or eight countries, and even now I spend a good deal of time on the road. Yet I generally feel comfortable wherever I am, usually wishing I could stay longer in almost every place I visit.

Rarely do I feel "homesick," yet I have deep attachments to place and certain places. Despite living overseas most of my life, the United States, in all its grandeur, remains my homeland.

And perhaps it's a variant of the Jewish geography game that I do feel a special affinity for the landscapes, climate, food, and even architecture in East-Central Europe, from where my ancestors came.

Jewish Topographies goes far beyond geography. Its chapters examine very different, and sometimes unusual, places where Jewish experience is strongly linked, physically or emotionally, to specific environments.

Most deal with concrete settings: Jews defiantly (and astonishingly) cultivating gardens in the midst of World War II ghettos. Jews hiking and kayaking through the prewar Polish countryside to gain connection with the land in which they live. The architectural and spatial symbolism of the *eruv* in contemporary Germany. The impact of what Jews eat, and the creation of definable Jewish "foodscapes." A "map" of the new alternative Jewish subcultures that have emerged recently in Budapest.

The book also includes an epilogue that expands the concept of Jewish space into areas that only recently opened up for exploration. Called "Virtual Jewish Topography," it chronicles the creation and growth of Judaism in the online cyberworld known as Second Life, starting with the creation of Beth Israel, the first Second Life synagogue, in August 2006.

Its author, Julian Voloj, tells a fascinating story of avatars, screen names, and self-selected identities as he charts the development of synagogues, Jewish institutions, Jewish cultural activities and Jewish neighborhoods—even anti-Semitic incidents—in a world that in a sense is real but also quite imaginary.

"How does one describe a place that does not 'really' exist and that can be changed by a simple mouse click?" he writes. "And how does one describe a culture in transition?"

I've known the German-born Voloj for several years. He is a writer, photographer, and former Jewish student leader who now works for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. We're Facebook friends and generally stay in touch online. But in addition to his expertise in novel Jewish topographies, he's also adept at playing classic "Jewish geography."

Indeed, I was pleased to learn not long ago that Voloj's grandmother turns out to be a close friend in Hamburg of my own first cousin once removed.

Ruth Ellen Gruber's books include "National Geographic Jewish Heritage Travel: A Guide to Eastern Europe," "Letters from Europe (and Elsewhere)," and "Virtually Jewish: Reinventing Jewish Culture in Europe."

Got rhythm? Got music?

David Erik Nelson, staff writer

Music and dance have been a vital part of human leisure and ritual for no less than 11,000 years. While our technology and techniques have certainly evolved in that time, our basic attachment to marking occasions with song and dance has remained unchanged.

For more than 95 years the **Arthur Murray Dance Studios** (5060 Jackson Rd., 995-9500, www.arthurmurraymichigan.com) across the United States have been teaching anyone who can walk to dance "the Arthur Murray Way." Their private lessons, taught by trained and certified instructors, can accommodate both those simply looking to get more comfortable dancing in social situations, as well as folks interested in dancing competitively (so-called "DanceSport," which is on the verge of becoming a recognized Olympic event). The "Arthur Murray Way"—which guarantees students will be dancing, at least rudimentarily, after the very first lesson—hinges on building up complex dances (such as the mambo, fox-trot, or salsa) from four basic, fundamental movements. There are five Arthur Murray Dance Studio locations throughout Southeaster Michigan, including one in Ann Arbor.

Joe Cornell began giving dance lessons in Metro Detroit basements in 1957, motivated by his firm belief that the road to teenage social confidence and self-esteem is best traversed in box steps. Now run by two of Joe's original employees, **Joe Cornell Entertainment** ((248) 356-6000, www.joecornell.com) continues to offer a 13-week pre-teen dance program, developed much along the lines of Cornell's original classes. But **Joe Cornell Entertainment** has also significantly expanded their offerings to include DJs, live percussionists, "party perkers" (i.e., professional dancers brought in as ringers to keep the dance floor moving), an impressive array of visual effects (e.g., concert-style intelligent lighting, strobes, bubble machines, fog machines, black lights, projection screens, etc.), and party-support services (including help in planning and scheduling an event, as well as hired runners to help manage the innumerable—and often unexpected—event-day details).

StarTrax Entertainment ((248) 263-6300, www.startrax.com), on the other hand, is more specifically fine-tuned to the bar or bat mitzvah experience. Their DJ/MCs and live vocalists—many of whom also have backgrounds in professional dance and choreography—are well-suited to pre-teen tastes. **StarTrax** also offers services beyond the dance floor, addressing both practical concerns (e.g., professional valet parking) and party-energizing extras, like airbrushed temporary tattoos, glitzy hair-dos, and digital photos. Just in case the prospect of all of this self-esteem building dance-floor social interaction is stressing out some prospective b'nai mitzvah-goers, **StarTrax** has also begun offering their "First Trax" pre-teen etiquette and dance class, aimed at fully preparing young people for the arduous coming-of-age ritual of doing the Electric Slide while wearing hard-soled loafers.

For those more interested in edifying relaxation than shaking a tail feather, the **University Musical Society** (764-2538, www.ums.org) has been bringing renowned dance, music, and theater events to Ann Arbor for 130 seasons, making **UMS** one of the oldest performing arts presenters in the nation. Two of this month's musical performances are of special interest to the Jewish community. On November 8, Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman will be performing piano duos by Brahms, Bolcom, Recuerdos, and Mozart, as well as Rachmaninoff's final orchestral suite, *Symphonic Dances*. Yefim Bronfman was born in Russia, but emigrated to Israel at 14, where he blossomed into a pianist that "bucks the stereotype of the Russian soloist as merely a technical wizard of large sound and emphatic personality." Bronfman's and Ax's 2002 recordings of Rachmaninoff's piano duos met with great critical acclaim. A week later on November 16, UMS will host the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. For more than 60 years, Israel's premier orchestra has offered a challenging repertoire of works by notable baroque, classical, romantic, and contemporary composers. For their debut with **UMS**, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra will present works by three prominent Jewish composers: Erich Walter Sternberg, Leonard Bernstein, and Aaron Copland. In late January UMS will play host to Jewish-American pianist Richard Goode. Renowned for his interpretation of chamber music—especially pieces composed by Beethoven and Mozart—Goode will be focusing on Bach, Mozart, and Chopin for this performance. ■

Radical Israelis, from page 20

tlers' leadership, including rabbis, are giving the movement's radical elements either tacit or outright support.

While acknowleging the rise in violent tactics, the head of the council that represents Jewish settlers in the West Bank said critics are trying to make the settler community look bad. "It needs to be known that last year the Palestinians damaged more fields of Jews than the other way around," said Dani Dayan of the Yesha Council. "Let there be no misunderstanding: Any attack on Jewish or Arab property should be condemned, but there is an organized effort to delegitimize the residents of Judea and Samaria," he said, using the biblical names for the West Bank.

Perhaps because of the negative image of settlers, the council has launched a public relations campaign with billboards across Israel that proclaim "Judea and Samaria—every Jew's story."

Meanwhile, within the mainstream settler movement are deep divisions over what direction to take. A leaflet recently distributed in some settlements and signed by two prominent settler leaders calls on the public to join in the fight against outpost evacuations by dispersing to exhaust security forces. The leaflet suggests blocking roads and building more outposts, and exhorts youths to take hikes in "unconventional areas"—interpreted to mean near Palestinian villages.

Rabbi Yuval Sherlow, considered a moderate leader in the religious Zionist camp of which the settlers are a key part, said members of the community's leadership must offer support to those who reject violent confrontation.

"There is a large periphery of people," he said, "and we need to give them ideological and religious backing so they don't feel like they are doing something wrong in obeying the law and fighting violence." ■

Vitals

Mazel tov

Benjamin Hendler on his bar mitzvah, November 1.
Logan Shayna on his bar mitzvah, November 1.
Eric Shayna on his bar mitzvah, November 1.
Ariel Freed on her bat mitzvah, November 8.
Jennifer Mann on her bat mitzvah, November 8.
Astrid Kerson on her bat mitzvah, November 8.
Joshua Bender on his bar mitzvah, November 15.
Benjamin Bielajew on his bar mitzvah, November 22.
Joshua Shubin on his bar mitzvah, November 22.
Mark and Sharon Weiner on the birth of their twins, Shayna and Aaron Moses Weinger, October 22.
Malcolm and Judy Cohen on the birth of their granddaughter, Maya Lauren Donnelly Cohen, daughter of Ilona Cohen and Mark Donnelly
Ronnie and Stu Simon on the marriage of their daughter, Caryn to Matt Demmon.

Condolences

Natalie Iglewitz on the death of her father, Henry Iglewitz, October 1.
Dorit Adler on the death of her mother, Vera Adler, also grandmother of Michelle Silver.
Barry Gross on the death of his mother, Pearl Gross.
Ellen Forsman on the death of her mother, Greta P. Forsman.

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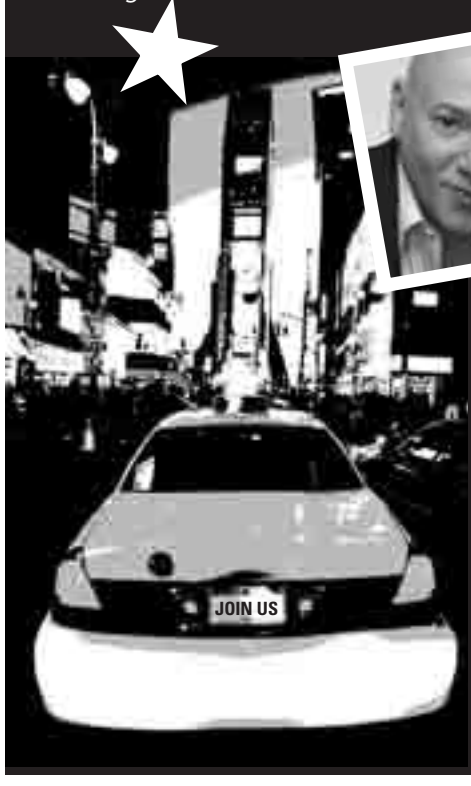

JFS invites you to meet us in "Times Square" for a New York-themed lunch and talk by **Evan Handler** on his book, **"It's Only Temporary: The Good News and the Bad News of Being Alive."**

Friday, November 14, 2008
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Jewish Community Center
2935 Birch Hollow Drive
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www.jfsannarbor.org by November 7.

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